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424

PART VI.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING

ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS

IN THE

ASIATIC PROVINCES OF TURKEY.

132

1882.

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Further Correspondence respecting Administrative Reforms in the Asiatic Provinces of Turkey.

PART VI.

No. 1.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 4, 1882.)

(No. 1130.) *Constantinople, December* 26, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a despatch addressed by Major Everett to Major Trotter respecting affairs at Erzeroum.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 1.

Major Everett to Major Trotter.

(No. 25.) *Erzeroum, December* 9, 1881.

Sir,

HAVING heard a rumour on my return to Erzeroum that Mutessarifs were to be appointed to the central sandjaks of vilayets, hitherto under the direct control of the Governors-General, I inquired of the Vali, who informed me that there was no truth in the report. Two days ago, however, a telegram was received by the Government here announcing that Hashim Bey, now Mutessarif of Erzingau, was appointed Mutessarif of the Sandjak of Erzeroum, and that his place was to be filled by Hadji Hussein Pasha, of Ardahan.

Of Hashim Bey, as an administrator, I do not know much, either good or bad. I have never received any complaints against him, so it may be presumed that there is no great harm in him. All I know of Hadji Hussein Pasha is, that he is a refugee and stone-deaf.

I presume it is intended by the creation of these new Mutessarifliks to leave the Governors-General free to visit the different sandjaks of the vilayets, but the gain will be very little and the increase of expenditure will be great.

The new Kaïmakam of Tortum has arrived here. He is an old man who has never been before in Asia Minor, but has served forty-nine times as Kaïmakam in Roumelia. On his arrival he was obliged to borrow 300 piastres to pay his muleteer from Trebizond and to keep himself alive. The appointment of such men is really very discreditable, but a still more discreditable transaction has just been perpetrated here.

A vacancy occurred in the Civil section of the Court of First Instance. For the election of a new member, six names are selected by the Idareh Medjliss of the vilayet and sent to the Medjlisses of the cazas of the sandjak, who, selecting three, return them to the Medjliss of the vilayet. From these three one is chosen. A certain member of the Idareh Medjliss here, wishing to obtain influence in this Tribunal, presented a candidate, and in

order to secure his selection managed by his own influence, and it is great, that the other five names should be those of men so incapable or of such bad character as to leave very little chance of their success. He himself went to Constantinople a short time ago, and in the meantime the elections have taken place. Among the other candidates was a certain Hashim Effendi, a man of noted bad character, and a man, too, resting under the stigma of an accusation of robbery; but he was a creature of the Cadi. The Cadi secured the interest of the Mektubji and of some of the members of the Medjliss, and the Mektubji forgot to warn one or two other members to attend on the day the selection was to be made; so Hashim Effendi, a man whom a Turkish gentleman assured me he wouldn't take even in the capacity of a servant, was duly elected to judge his fellow-creatures. Only one member, Mgr. Ormanian, the Gregorian Armenian Bishop, had the courage to oppose the Vali and withhold his signature from the document confirming the appointment. The Acting Inspector-General of Tribunals was among the voters, and he has the right, if so minded, to send a protest to the Minister of Justice; but I have already made you acquainted with his tenets (see my despatch No. 25 of the 11th November), and he will not swerve from them in the present instance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

No. 2.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 4, 1882.)

(No. 1133.) *Constantinople, December* 26, 1881.
My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Gatheral reporting the circumstances of an attack made on the residence of the Inspector of Justice of the Angora Vilayet, and the possible results of this outrage. I have thought it advisable to bring these facts to the notice of the Sublime Porte, and orders have in consequence been sent to the local authorities to take the necessary steps with a view to prevent the execution of the threats directed against Mr. Gatheral.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 2.

Vice-Consul Gatheral to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 130. Confidential.) *Angora, December* 16, 1881.
My Lord,

I BEG to inform your Excellency that in a recent despatch, No. 118, dated the 13th October, I felt it my duty to give some information regarding the disorganized state of the administration of justice in this vilayet, and the fierce opposition encountered by Ohannes Khoresandjian Effendi in his well-meant and honest efforts to reform the administration referred to.

I regret to have to inform your Excellency that this opposition has become demonstrative and violent. Before daybreak on the 9th instant Ohannes Effendi's house was attacked by some miscreants who hurled huge stones against the doors and windows, completely wrecking the latter and seriously damaging the walls and furniture; the sleeping apartments were fortunately at the back of the house, so that no damage was done to life or limb, but the inmates awakened in this rude fashion were of course greatly alarmed.

The local authorities have not been very active in their search for the perpetrators, and no arrests have been made, although, as usual, they are quite well known, and there is little doubt that the outrage was instigated by the Hakim or Indyr and Emin Bey, the President of the Court of First Instance, the object, which they hardly attempt to conceal, being to frighten Ohannes Effendi into resigning his post or leaving this part of the province. I am sorry to add that in this respect they are likely to succeed, as Ohannes Effendi is of a nervous and timid nature, and has been greatly disturbed by the occurrence.

He has reported the affair to head-quarters, but the only notice taken of it by the

Nazaret was a telegraphic order to the Vali directing him to post zaptiehs near the Inspector's residence to protect himself and family if it was deemed necessary. A patrol was accordingly sent round for two or three nights, but has since been withdrawn. Meanwhile the official opposition to the Inspector's reforms grows every day, and Emin Bey, who is a son of the famous Kurdish Bedishan Pasha, and possesses consequently much Palace influence, openly boasts that he will shortly obtain the dismissal, not only of the Inspector, but of some other Christian officials lately appointed.

It is a matter of comparatively trivial importance, but I have been anonymously warned as well as threatened lately that this Vice-Consulate will ere long be subjected to a similar attack, the alleged reason being that some Moslem fanatics think that I have more influence with the authorities than I ought to have, and that too much deference is paid to my representations.

To friends of all creeds who warn me of the danger, I merely reply that if such an attack should be attempted, I hope I will not be found altogether unprepared to receive it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GAVIN GATHERAL.

No. 3.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 4, 1882.)

(No. 1134.) *Constantinople, December* 26, 1881.
My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Biliotti with regard to the state of affairs in the district of Hodoortchoor. I considered it advisable to bring the facts to the notice of the Sublime Porte, and the Under-Secretary of State has given orders that the local authorities should be instructed to take measures for the repression of the brigandage.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 3.

Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 71.) *Trebizond, December* 15, 1881.
My Lord.

IN my despatch No. 54 of the 12th September last I have had the honour to refer to raids of brigands from the sea-shore to eastern inland districts.

I now respectfully beg to enter into details with regard to Hodoortchoor, a canton in the Vilayet of Erzeroum, mostly inhabited by Roman Catholic Armenians, and of which I cursorily spoke in the forementioned despatch.

The first outrage which was brought to notice from that locality dates so far back as the year 1878.

As I reported in my despatch No. 63 of the 8th May of that year, brigands from Rizeh and neighbourhood surrounded the church of Mohirgud during a holiday, which attracted there a great concourse of people, and despoiled the women of their jewels and the church of its ornaments. The stolen property was valued at 100,000 piastres (about 900*l.*).

Three of the perpetrators of this outrage having been apprehended and lodged in prison, amongst whom a certain Tuilioglou Salih Bairaktar, their relatives tried to induce the Armenians to have them released; but being unable to obtain their end, Salih's sons, together with confederates, set fire to the village of Hodoortchoor. Twenty-nine houses and 121 premises were burnt down, three persons shot, one of whom, a woman, was killed on the spot. (Reference to No. 145 of the 28th September, 1878.)

In a petition addressed to me from Hodoortchoor (which I transmitted in my No. 148 of the 30th September, 1878) are mentioned other outrages which the petitioners suffered from the same parties.

The incidents connected with the apprehension and trial of the culprits for arson at Hodoortchoor are related in my despatches to Her Majesty's Embassy Nos. 161, 174, 183 of 1878, and in two Memoranduma and in Nos. 3, 14, 29, 40, 46, 60, and 66 of 1879,

addressed by the Porte to Sir Henry Layard, and respectively inclosed in his Excellency's despatches Nos. 21 and 379 of 1879, to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and copies of which were transmitted to me by the Foreign Office.

When the outrage was known at Constantinople, stringent orders were given for the apprehension of the culprits; but the Kaïmakam of Rizeh, a certain Hadji Ali Nihad Effendi, had only twenty zaptiehs to apprehend a superior number of malefactors. He succeeded, however, to carry out the orders of his Government, except in the case of the Tuilioglous, who were protected by local magnates.

As Nihad Effendi displayed unusual and praiseworthy energy to capture the Tuilioglous, he was falsely accused of a murder, suspended from his functions, tried at Trebizond at the end of several months, and, though the charge was not substantiated, dismissed from his post, for the only apparent object that he had fulfilled his duties. Representations were made to the Porte by Sir Henry Layard, but to no avail.

In the meantime, seventeen individuals, out of twenty-six arrested by Nihad Effendi, were forwarded to Erzeroum, where ten others apprehended in that vilayet were waiting for their trial.

Seven of the accused parties were condemned to death, and several others to different terms of imprisonment, but the capital sentence was not executed; and with the exception, if I am rightly informed, of two who died in prison, and of Onbashi Hussein, of Caradéré, who is still in prison, all the convicts managed somehow or other to escape from gaol within the year that followed their condemnation.

Since that time the inhabitants of Hodoortchoor have been more or less molested by bands of brigands, mostly recruited among the forementioned convicts, and under the leadership of the Tuilioglous.

Towards last Easter they despoiled the church of Gakhmokood of its ornaments, valued at about 100*l.*

Some time after they attacked a caravan of eight Mussulmans and Christians proceeding to Hodoortchoor, killed one of the former and wounded another, and carried off the goods of the travellers.

An agent of the Hodoortchoorlis obtained repeated orders from the Vali of Trebizond to the Mutessarif of Rizeh for the apprehension of the accused parties; but nothing is done, though no doubt exists as to the identity of the accused parties. They are using in their houses the vestments of the priests as sofa coverings, and have been selling at public auction at Atina a chalice.

On the agent pointing out this fact to the local authorities, they were satisfied with the explanation given to them by the brigands, that among the ancestors of one of them was a priest (most of the inhabitants of the eastern district are descendants of Christians who embraced Islamism), and that the chalice was a family relic. But the fact was disregarded that the name of the church of Hodoortchoor, and that of the donor, are written in Armenian on its foot.

In the case of the plunder of the caravan, it is likewise easy to discover the culprits, as they had the stolen goods conveyed at Hamsheen by the same muleteers who were accompanying the travellers.

But the fact is that the local authorities are powerless; they have done nothing hitherto, and will do no more henceforth. Whenever an attempt is made to capture the Tuilioglous, twenty-eight of their female relatives appear on the scene, revolver and Martini in hand, and the police force, unable to cope with these modern Amazons, beats a hasty retreat. In the meantime the bands of brigands continue to perpetrate outrages.

On the $\frac{18}{30}$th ultimo a petition was addressed by the Hodoortchoorlis to the Roman Catholic Armenian Bishop, who communicated it to me.

They therein state that on the 7th October last the Tuilioglous and consorts compelled them to purchase for 300*l.* of contraband tobacco. On the 9th they killed in its stable the horse of the Mudir, who since a year is a Christian, having at his command a police force consisting of two zaptiehs.

On the 11th the brigands set fire to the village of Gakhmokood, which luckily was got under in time.

On the 21st they plundered the house of a certain Bedros Djouderian, of Hantatzor, of 200*l.*, inflicting on him a severe wound, from which he is not expected to recover. They also lifted cattle.

The Bishop informed me, besides, that they had set a price of 50*l.* upon the head of the priest of Hodoortchoor, who seems to be a resolute man. He always walks armed, only deposing his weapons to celebrate mass, when a number of the inhabitants keep watch round the church.

The Hodoortchoorlis beg to be informed whether there is any hope for them to be

protected by the Government, as, in case there is not, they may come to terms with the Tuilioglous, and pay them an annual tribute.

It must be owned that, in their position, this last compromise will, at all events, save them from the unbearable anxiety in which they now continually live, and from occasional loss of life.

As I was engaged with the affair of Hodoortchoor, Ali Nihad Effendi called on me. He succeeded some months back to be appointed Kaïmakam at Farkin, in Kurdistan, and is now proceeding on a leave of absence to Constantinople.

It struck me that, as he had displayed great energy on the former occasion, and is the only Turkish functionary who ventured to capture dreaded brigands in this quarter, his reappointment in one of the eastern districts might be most beneficial to the populations at Hodoortchoor.

The Armenian Bishop called on me shortly after for the special purpose of making an identical suggestion on the part of his co-religionists, as a check to the outrages of which they are the victims.

He is writing on the subject to the Patriarch, and has expressed a hope that the wishes of his co-religionists will be backed by your Lordship's powerful influence.

I respectfully beg to call your Lordship's attention to the fact that if a serious attempt be intended for the capture of the brigands in question, the winter season, which prevents their escape on the snowy mountains, is the only time when there is some chance to apprehend them.

The agent of the Hodoortchoorlis having given up all hope to obtain any satisfactory result at Trebizond, intends to proceed to-day to Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 4.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received January 4, 1882.)

(No. 1135.)
Constantinople, December 26, 1881.

My Lord,

SOME time ago I had the satisfaction of informing your Lordship that, in consequence of my representations, the Procureur of Sivas had been dismissed. I subsequently learned that he had been nominated in the same capacity to Diarbekir, a post which he never took up. He has now been named Mektoubji, or Chief Secretary, of the Vali of Sivas.

Immediately on hearing this I remonstrated with Said Pasha, who stated that the above functionary was the brother of Hassan Fehmi Effendi, Minister of Public Works, who had taken a warm interest in the matter, and had succeeded in exculpating his brother before the Council of Ministers of all the charges that had been brought against him, and in obtaining the nomination to the post of Mektoubji. His Highness added that, as Hakki Pasha would not remain long as Vali of Sivas, his successor might be able to replace Ahmed Shevki Effendi by some one else.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 5.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received January 7, 1882.)

(No. 1140.)
Constantinople, December 30, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith an interesting Report I have received from Consul-General Eldridge on the state of affairs in Syria and the Mountain.

Mr. Eldridge expresses his satisfaction at the manner in which Mr. Dickson and the Consular staff generally have discharged their duties during his absence.

Your Lordship will observe that Mr. Eldridge is able to give a very gratifying account of the situation in the Lebanon, and also, comparatively with other parts of the Ottoman Empire, of the condition of the Syrian vilayet. He refers, however, to the disorders in the judicial administration, which show that this branch of government is in great need of reform.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 5.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 60. Confidential.) *Beyrout, December 19, 1881.*

My Lord,

SOME weeks having now elapsed since I resumed my duties as Her Majesty's Consul-General in Syria, I consider it time that I should report to your Lordship my general impressions and conclusions as to the state of affairs in Mount Lebanon and Syria.

In the first place, it is my agreeable duty to bring to your notice the impression I have gathered from all sides as to the admirable manner in which Mr. Dickson has carried on the duties of Her Majesty's Consulate-General during my long absence of eighteen months. He appears to have displayed great discretion and tact, as well as firmness, in dealing with the various matters which came before him, and has gained the good-will and esteem of all with whom he was brought into contact, while, on my own part, I found that all current affairs have been regularly and properly dealt with, and I therefore venture to recommend him to your Excellency and to Earl Granville for some mark of approval.

Mr. Dickson has brought to my notice the zeal and energy displayed by Mr. Shoucair and the other members of the staff of the Consulate-General, whose duties were especially arduous during the past summer, owing to the removal, in the early part of the year, of Mr. Consular Assistant Beaman, who had hitherto performed the duties of Vice-Consul, which after his departure had to be divided between Mr. Dickson and the other members of the staff, under Mr. Dickson's responsibility.

Generally in Mount Lebanon perfect tranquillity reigns, with the exception of a few acts of brigandage in the extreme north, but thanks to the energy displayed by the Government the greater part of the band have been secured, and are now awaiting their trial. There, however, yet remain at large two of the chiefs, who are in concealment and fugitives, but probably will soon share the fate of their comrades.

The attitude of opposition assumed on his first appointment by M. Patrimonio, the French Consul-General, towards the Governor-General has considerably modified, though his relations with his Excellency are still not on that footing of cordiality which is to be desired.

The party of the Maronite clergy hostile to Rustem Pasha, of which Bishop Butros Bistany and Bishop Dibs, of Beyrout, are the leaders, still continue to intrigue against his Excellency, with the object of opposing his reappointment when his term of office comes to an end early in 1883, and several of the principal Maronite functionaries in the Lebanon are in league with this party, which is said to be secretly supported and encouraged by the French Consulate-General, no doubt with a view to securing the appointment of Nasri Bey, son of the late Franco Pasha, as his Excellency's successor in the Lebanon.

Should these intrigues prove successful, I consider, from my personal knowledge of Nasri Bey, that his nomination as Governor-General of the Lebanon would be a great misfortune for the country, as, unless he is very much altered, he is wanting in firmness of character and independence of action, and would, in my opinion, place himself in the hands of the recalcitrant party of the Maronite clergy and the agents of France, who would guide him according to their own views and for their own objects, which are not acquiesced in by the majority of the inhabitants.

I must, however, in justice say that the Maronite Patriarch keeps aloof from these intrigues, which are carried on, I believe, in opposition to his wishes as well as those of the other Bishops, but his Beatitude is lacking in sufficient energy to control efficiently the two unruly Bishops above mentioned and their party, which, however, consists of a minority of the Maronites, as the majority, including many of the most respectable and influential members of this sect, are opposed to these intrigues.

This party, personally opposed to Rustem Pasha, owe more of their importance to their restless activity than to their numbers, or to their moral or social standing, though it must be admitted that their Chief, Bishop Butros Bistany, possesses in a high degree those astute intellectual qualifications which render a man dangerous in Eastern intrigues, and since his exile to Jerusalem in 1878 he has sworn eternal personal enmity to Rustem Pasha.

All parties, however, admit that his Excellency has shown great impartiality and displayed much zeal, activity, and intelligence during the eight and a-half years he has governed the Lebanon, the interests of whose people, irrespective of nationality or sect, I believe he has sincerely at heart, and in consequence the country has greatly prospered under his rule.

He has been indefatigable in his efforts to preserve public order within the Lebanon, and to resist, as far as possible, all encroachments from without. With very limited means at his disposal, he has done more to improve the means of communication, by the construction of new bridges and roads, as well as by keeping in repair the ancient roads and bridges, than his two predecessors, who had much larger sums at their command for those purposes. He has also inclosed with a stout high wall the "Cedars of the Lebanon," in order to preserve these venerable monuments of antiquity from damage committed by goats and by the annually increasing number of travellers, who, however, are free to visit them provided they do not encamp within the inclosure.

On the whole, the position of the Lebanon contrasts most favourably with the surrounding districts, as it appears to do with any of the other provinces of the Turkish Empire, and had the inhabitants a more fertile soil than their rocky mountains to cultivate and supply their wants, they might be envied even by populations in other parts of the world than Turkey.

I wish I could, consistently with my duty, report an equally favourable state of affairs in the Vilayet of Syria, which leaves much to be desired in the way of improvement of its administration and means of communication, though I believe, from what I learn from published Reports, that it would compare by no means unfavourably with the apparently deplorable condition of the rest of Asiatic Turkey.

The present Vali of Syria, his Highness Hamdi Pasha, appears to be anxious to do his best to improve matters, but the limited means at his disposal, and the want of capable, well-trained, and honest men to fill subordinate posts, as well as the want of sufficient pecuniary means, render his task difficult and onerous. His honesty of purpose and strict probity cannot be disputed, but with incapable and underpaid officials, it is impossible for him to effect any radical reforms, were he possessed of sufficient power to do so. He is deservedly popular with all classes under his administration, who are convinced of his earnest desire to improve their lot.

Except the completion of the carriage road from Shtoura to Baalbek, little in the vilayet has been accomplished in the way of public works, and the roads commenced by Midhat Pasha still remain unfinished.

The disturbances which occurred in the early part of the year in the Hauran, and fully reported on by Mr. Acting Consul-General Dickson and Mr. Vice-Consul Jago, have now quieted down, and tranquillity appears to reign for the present in that usually unsettled district; how long it may continue so it is difficult to foresee, as the elements of strife ever exist amongst the unruly populations of that wild region.

In the Merj-Ayoun district, to the south of the Lebanon, murders and acts of brigandage are, as formerly, of not infrequent occurrence, owing chiefly to the enmity which exists between the Druses and Metualis, who form the majority of the inhabitants, and between whom there exist innumerable blood-feuds of ancient date, which each party seeks to avenge whenever an opportunity offers.

The fiscal frauds perpetrated in the district of Baalbek about two years ago, and reported on by me and afterwards by Mr. Dickson, have long since ceased, but few and partial attempts have been made to restore to the owners of the land the money extorted from them by illegal and false pretences. Amongst the sufferers by these frauds is a British subject, Mr. Rattray, who was the first to denounce them, but all efforts to obtain for him a restitution of the money, of which I may almost say he was robbed, have hitherto failed, though I believe some of the native proprietors have succeeded in effecting a compromise and obtaining a portion of the amounts which they had paid to the corrupt officials.

There have been several changes of Mutessarifs and Kaïmakams, none of which demand any special notice with the exception of the present Kaïmakam of Baalbek, Mahmoud Bey-el-Yussef, who was appointed in the early part of last year, and who, being a man of independent means and honesty of purpose, has greatly improved the administration of that district and gained great popularity amongst all classes of the inhabitants, except those who profited by the maladministration of his predecessors. I hear, however, that he is dissatisfied, and I think justly so, at meeting with no encouragement in the way of promotion, increase of rank, or a decoration, while these honours are bestowed with a liberal hand upon other and notoriously corrupt functionaries; so that he now talks of resigning and retiring into private life. It would be a matter much to be regretted if he carries this resolution into effect, as he forms a bright exception to the usual class of officials, and, therefore, ought to be encouraged as well for his own sake as to induce other men of his stamp (who, unfortunately, are so few in Turkey) to come forward to serve their country.

The crying evil in the country is the present administration of justice. I have

carefully gone through the correspondence on this subject, which was published during the present year (Blue Book, "Turkey No. 8"), and from what has been brought to my notice since my return to Syria, I have no hesitation in saying that the state of affairs described in that correspondence is by no means exaggerated, but in my opinion rather understated. The state of confusion which exists is indescribable, as there does not seem to be, in Syria at least, a single man capable of understanding either the spirit or the letter of the new Regulations which they have been appointed to put into execution, while their venality and corruption far exceeds anything hitherto known in Syria. The judicial functionaries being no longer under the control of the higher executive authorities of the country, have it, so to speak, all their own way, and feel themselves free to extort bribes from both sides without any fear of detection and punishment.

In theory, no doubt, the independence of the Judges of the land is good, but to render it a real advantage to the country the first elements are wanted. To carry out thoroughly this new system it is necessary to have men trained to the law, thoroughly understanding both its spirit and letter, and at the same time possessed of intelligence, uprightness, and firmness of character, and of an honesty above all suspicion; but alas! where in Turkey are a sufficient number of such men to be found?

The police and gendarmerie, organized about two years ago by Midhat Pasha, and composed of Moslems and non-Moslems, continues to be fairly efficient, and to be recruited according to the original plan; but I believe it is not now looked upon with quite so much favour as during the time of its creator; it is, nevertheless, a useful institution.

During the past year the crops of all kinds have been about on an average with former years, and the people are not complaining in this respect. The subject will, however, be treated in detail in the annual Commercial Report, as will be the state of trade, which, from what I can gather, has been fairly flourishing; and I am told that the importation of English manufactured goods has increased both in quantity and value.

During my absence some changes have occurred in the foreign Consular Body of Beyrout. Shortly before I left, in April 1880, M. Delaporte was succeeded, as French Consul-General, by M. Sienkiewicz, who, in April of the present year, was promoted to be Agent and Consul-General in Egypt, and was succeeded, as Consul-General in Syria, by M. Patrimonio, who had previously held the post of French Consul at Jerusalem. The French have established a paid Vice-Consulate at Hamah and Homs, with a salary of 10,000 fr. a-year, in lieu of an unpaid native Agent, and another Vice-Consulate at Caiffa, with a similar salary, in lieu of a trading Vice-Consul.

M. le Comte Casasaria was succeeded as Spanish Consul at Beyrout, in August last, by M. Pérera, who occupied a similar position at Amoy, in China.

M. Frederici, formerly Belgian Consul at Smyrna, arrived at Beyrout, at Consul-General, in October last, in succession to M. Nicaise.

Some changes have also occurred amongst the members of the staff of the various Consular establishments at Beyrout, but not of sufficient importance to require special notice; and M. Flesh, French Consul at Damascus, was recalled in August last.

In conclusion, I cannot help reporting to your Excellency the warmth of the reception I met with on my return, after so prolonged an absence. All seemed anxious to prove, by calling upon us, that both I and my family were heartily welcome back to Syria, where we have resided so many years, and for several days our rooms were constantly frequented by visitors. All the races, nationalities, and creeds existing in Syria and the Lebanon, without exception, were represented. The Maronite Patriarch, who never leaves the mountains, sent me, by the hands of Bishop Dibs, a letter of congratulation, of which I have the honour to inclose a translation, as a proof of the cordial relations existing between us, which is the more flattering as, with the exception (naturally) of my French colleague, his Beatitude has never addressed in similar terms any of my colleagues, although several of them represent Catholic Governments. This communication, which was commented upon by the local press, has produced an excellent effect in the country

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 5.

The Maronite Patriarch to Consul-General Eldridge.

(Traduction.)

EN vous exprimant le désir de vous revoir en bonne santé, et de m'informer de vos bonnes dispositions, j'ai à vous faire part que j'étais très heureux d'apprendre la bonne

nouvelle de votre retour au Consulat-Général de Sa Majesté Britannique à Beyrouth, et c'est à raison des sentiments d'amitié et d'estime que j'ai pour votre honorable personne, que je m'empresse de vous adresser la présente lettre, et de la faire parvenir à votre Excellence par l'entremise de mon confrère, son Éminence Youssouf Dibs, Archevêque de Beyrouth, que j'ai chargé de se présenter chez vous à l'effet de vous offrir de ma part les devoirs de félicitation à l'occasion de votre heureuse arrivée, et de vous exprimer la satisfaction que j'en éprouve.

Veuillez agréer l'expression de ces sentiments émanant de ma grande amitié et de ma haute considération envers votre digne personne.

J'espère que vous voudrez bien me faire parvenir vos bonnes nouvelles.

Puisse le Tout-Puissant vous conserver.

L'humble Patriarche d'Antioche,
(Signé) BOULOS BUTROS.

Le 28 Octobre, 1881.

No. 6.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received January 9, 1882.)

E

(No. 512. Confidential.)

Vienna, December 27, 1881.

My Lord,

I ASKED Count Kalnoky to-day whether he had received any communication from Constantinople on the subject of the Armenian reforms, expressing, at the same time, the hope that Baron Calice would support Her Majesty's Ambassador in urging the Porte to deal effectually with the question.

His Excellency replied that all he knew about it was that the Porte had promised the appointment of a High Commissioner, and Baron Calice would certainly join in the representations which Lord Dufferin was making to the Porte; but Count Kalnoky's language fully confirmed the correctness of a late observation to your Lordship by Lord Dufferin on the indifference felt on the subject by all the Governments excepting that of Her Majesty.

Apart, he said, from a general sentiment of humanity, which made them wish for the prosperity of all, Austria had no interest of her own involved, and would not be desirous of applying any strong pressure to the Porte, and he believed that he might say that the feeling of the German Cabinet was identical with his own.

As for Russia, as she regarded the clause in the Treaty of Berlin as being really directed against her, and as the good government of the Armenian population and the possible content which might proceed from it would not be favourable to her views, warm support from that side was not to be expected.

Count Kalnoky added that the establishment of anything deserving the name of a good administration among such a people as those who inhabited Armenia was, in his opinion, a task beyond the powers of the Sultan or of any one else, though improvement might be expected by the nomination of efficient Governors.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 7.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 25.)

Foreign Office, January 9, 1882.

My Lord;

IN the course of my conversation with the Turkish Ambassador yesterday and to-day I took the opportunity of making some remarks on the question of reforms in Armenia.

I said that, while the attention of the Sultan and his Government had been engrossed in the settlement of the Montenegrin and Greek frontier questions, we had forborne from pressing this other matter urgently upon their notice. When the hands of the Porte had become comparatively free to deal with it, and it was, in fact, one of the questions which most required attention in the interests of the Empire itself, your Excellency had brought it forward. But it could not be said that any want of consideration had been shown in the manner in which this had been done. Although the engagements taken by the Sultan in the Treaty of Berlin gave Her Majesty's

Government, in common with the other Parties to the Treaty, an undoubted right to demand the introduction of reforms, we had studiously abstained from any action that would have tended to interfere with His Majesty's free initiative. We had not proposed any cut-and-dry plan of reform, but had contented ourselves with representing the several points which appeared to us to call most for consideration, and with recommending, as a provisional measure, the speedy appointment of a competent administrator as Special Commissioner, with large discretionary powers. The Sultan had himself promised your Excellency, upwards of three months ago, that this latter measure should be adopted without delay. It was therefore with great surprise and disappointment that I had now received a report from you that His Majesty had gone back from his decision, and that the appointment of a Commissioner was, to all appearance, indefinitely postponed.

I said that I had no desire to use language of unnecessary complaint, but that it was impossible that Her Majesty's Government should not take note of what had happened in this case, and that it should not affect the confidence which they would wish to feel in the punctual fulfilment of promises made personally by the Sultan to their Ambassador.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 8.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 11.) *Foreign Office, January* 11, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 1133 of the 26th ultimo, and I approve your having brought to the notice of the Porte the facts reported by Mr. Vice-Consul Gatheral with regard to the attack made on the residence of the Inspector of Justice of the Angora Vilayet and the threats directed against Mr. Gatheral.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 9.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 12.) *Foreign Office, January* 11, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 1134 of the 26th ultimo, forwarding a copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Biliotti upon the state of affairs in the district of Hodoortchoor; and I approve your Excellency having brought the facts reported by Mr. Biliotti to the notice of the Sublime Porte.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 10.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received January 12, 8 A.M.)

(No. 7.) *Constantinople, January* 11, 1882, 11·45 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

KHALIL PERMAAT PASHA, Member of the Committee of Public Works, has been appointed Vali of Sivas in the place of Hakki Pasha.

No. 11.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received January 15.)

(No. 8.) *Constantinople, January* 14, 1882, 7·30 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE had the honour of an audience with the Sultan to-day. His Majesty held pretty much the same language as that used to me by the Minister for Foreign

Affairs, as reported to your Lordship in my despatch No. 13 of the 10th instant. He [? gave] me the most solemn personal assurances that he was perfectly determined to fulfil in a faithful and loyal manner the obligations imposed on him by the LXIst Article of the Treaty of Berlin. "Let only the British Government have patience and confidence in me," he said, "and they shall not be disappointed."

The conversation lasted two hours, and its purport cannot be resumed in a telegram.

No. 12.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received January 18.)

(No. 13. Confidential.) *Constantinople, January* 10, 1882.

My Lord,

ON the 21st December I informed your Lordship by telegram that Achmet Vefyk Pasha was likely to be appointed Special High Commissioner for the Armenian provinces. This I did on the strength of a double assurance to that effect conveyed to me both by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and by the Prime Minister, and which was confirmed by the fact that the personage in question had been unexpectedly summoned to the Palace from Broussa, the seat of his Government.

A few days afterwards, however, a rumour began to prevail that Achmet Vefyk Pasha, instead of being advanced to the responsible and honourable position thus indicated, had suddenly fallen under the displeasure of His Majesty, had been subjected to an interrogatory, and might, perhaps, be put upon his trial. I have not been able to discover the exact amount of truth in these reports, but I have no doubt that they are not altogether devoid of foundation.

Be that as it may, on the 25th December the Minister for Foreign Affairs called upon me, by the express orders of the Sultan, for the purpose of acquainting me with His Majesty's actual intentions. The Sultan, his Excellency said, desired me to call to mind the loyal manner in which he had carried out one after another the various painful obligations imposed upon him by the Treaty of Berlin, including the recognition of Bulgaria as a Principality, of Eastern Roumelia as an autonomous State, the settlement of the Montenegrin question, and the cession to Greece of the magnificent Province of Thessaly, and of a large portion of Epirus. His conduct in the past might be taken as security for his future good faith, and should give additional weight to the assurances he now desired to convey to me on behalf of His Majesty, that he was determined to carry out with equal exactitude that portion of the Berlin Treaty which had special reference to the Armenian question.

Indeed, for some time past, his Excellency went on to say, both the Sultan and his Ministers have been sedulously occupied with the consideration of the reforms stipulated for in Article LXI; but the settlement of the financial question with the bondholders, and of the indemnity question with Russia, had of necessity taken up a considerable proportion of His Majesty's time and attention. Nevertheless, he was commissioned to assure me that the question of reforms would be now taken in hand, and prosecuted continuously with redoubled vigour. His Majesty, however, did not propose at once to nominate a High Commissioner. The experiment of constituting High Commissioners had already been frequently tried, but had never been satisfactory. Some had done too little, some had done too much, and no permanent good had flowed from their exertions. Moreover, the winter was now advanced, and there would be great difficulty in moving from place to place in Armenia. Under these circumstances, His Majesty thought it would be better not to name a Commissioner until the contemplated plan of reforms had been duly elaborated; but when once it was ready for promulgation, then would be the time for appointing a High Commissioner, who would be entrusted with the task of superintending their application and watching their effects.

I observed, in reply, that the upshot of his Excellency's communication was that His Majesty did not intend to carry out the promise he had made to me on the 15th September last, to appoint a High Commissioner within a month. I then proceeded to remind his Excellency that, in suggesting the appointment of a Commissioner, the Representatives of the foreign Powers had acted upon the supposition that some time must necessarily elapse before the Ministers of the Sultan would be prepared to submit to His Majesty's approval their plan of reforms, and that such a nomination was suggested as a provisional expedient for mitigating the present and

pressing miseries of the populations until such time as a proper system of government could be provided for them. Moreover, at my last interview with His Majesty, I had specially insisted that the appointment should be made at once, lest the winter should overtake him before the person to be sent could reach the theatre of his labours. I could not, therefore, refrain from expressing my deep disappointment at the news brought to me by his Excellency, for it followed that, for another six months, murder and licence were to have free scope amongst the unhappy inhabitants of Kurdistan. It would be my duty, of course, to report to my Government the substance of his Excellency's communication, with reference to which I should ask for instructions.

Upon this, Assim Pasha informed me that he had received His Majesty's orders to again repair to his presence after he had seen me, and he begged me not to communicate anything to your Lordship until he had reported the result of our conversation, and ascertained whether the Sultan had my fresh commands, in which case he would again call upon me.

As a matter of fact, I believe his Excellency was not able to see His Majesty, and has only had an opportunity of conveying to him a written Report of what passed.

A few days afterwards, however (on the 29th December), Munir Bey, the First Chamberlain of His Majesty, honoured me with a visit, by order of the Sultan. His Excellency went over pretty nearly the same ground as had been traversed by Assim Pasha, except that he gave me to understand that the Sultan's idea was to constitute a large Executive Council of Reforms, sitting at Constantinople, to which a certain number of the most distinguished statesmen of the Empire were to be nominated, at the same time that a Commissioner and Sub-Commissioners were to proceed to the provinces, for the purpose of carrying out whatever régime this Council might institute; but his Excellency seemed especially anxious to impress upon me that the reforms in question were to be applicable to all the vilayets of Anatolia, and were not simply to be confined to those parts of the country which, to use the words of the Treaty of Berlin, "are principally inhabited by Armenians." "It is true," Munir Bey remarked, "that the Sultan is only bound by his obligations to Europe to ameliorate the condition of a certain category of his subjects; but, of course, you can have no objection if he desires also to extend to the Mussulman population those benefits of security and good government which you are content to solicit for the Christians alone. If we do for the latter all that you are entitled to demand, you cannot complain if we associate their Mussulman fellow-subjects in their good fortune."

I replied, that of course no one would dream of finding fault with the Sultan if he rendered all his subjects equally prosperous and contented; but there were certain material circumstances and conditions which had accentuated the evils of the misgovernment to which the Armenian populations in the eastern districts of Asia Minor had been subjected, and which rendered their situation far more intolerable than was the case in other parts of the Empire. In the Vilayets of Erzeroum, Van, Bitlis, Hakkiari, Kharpoot, &c., the Armenians were located in the plains in close juxtaposition to the fierce and warlike Kurds, who, inhabiting the mountains, whose the soil was poor and scarcely capable of supporting them, were tempted, in consequence of the laxity of the Administration, to supplement their wants by periodical raids upon the Armenian villages, which were too often accompanied by rapine and bloodshed. There were, moreover, in this part of the country, a considerable nomadic population, who were a pest and terror to the industrious sedentary cultivators; and that it was obvious that in any scheme of reforms special provision would have to be made for these peculiar circumstances, and it would, therefore, be impossible to establish an absolutely uniform system of administration in every part of Asia Minor. In fact, it was these special conditions which had attracted the attention of the European Powers, and had given rise to the incorporation of the LXIst Article in the Treaty of Berlin.

His Excellency then complained of the unfriendly spirit lately evinced by England towards the Sultan and his Government. I replied that I scarcely knew to what he referred; that ever since I had been here I had constantly exercised my good offices on behalf of Turkey, in proof of which I enumerated various occasions on which, at the instance of Assim Pasha or of the Prime Minister, I had interposed in favour of the Porte. Upon this Munir Bey explained that he did not allude to these minor points, but to larger matters, such as the Greek and Montenegrin questions, on both of which England had shown itself more bitterly hostile to Turkey than any of the other Powers. Again, with regard to Egypt, England had joined with France in an endeavour to oppose and thwart what, as the event had proved, were the wise provisions of the Sultan for the maintenance of tranquillity in that country; and even with regard to this Armenian question, England was the only Power that seemed in earnest or desirous of putting any pressure upon the Sultan and the Porte. All the other Governments were quite content to allow His Majesty to take his own time, and showed no anxiety either for the immediate appointment of a Commissioner or to hurry on the question of reforms.

I answered that of course I was not in a position to know what passed between His Majesty and my colleagues, but that the programme of action I was pressing had been determined upon in common, and that, according to the personal assurances I had received from the other Ambassadors, it had been advocated at the Porte by each one of them with the same zeal and persistence as by myself.

Munir Bey then informed me that His Majesty hoped shortly to be able to admit me to an audience.

In reviewing the language thus held by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and by one of His Majesty's most confidential servants, it must be admitted that the result is not satisfactory, and the most obvious conclusion to be drawn is that the Ottoman Government intends, by a policy of delay and procrastination, to frustrate the benevolent intentions of the LXIst Article of the Treaty of Berlin. On the other hand, it must be admitted that some of the pleas advanced on behalf of the Sultan are sufficiently plausible. It must be remembered that His Majesty retains in his own hands the administration of every Department of the State, and consequently the multiplicity of matters pressing for his personal consideration must be enormous, and far beyond the capacity of any single individual to dispose of. As soon as the Greek question was settled, the arrangement with the bondholders and the Russian indemnity claim naturally occupied a considerable share of his attention, and though it might be argued that the financial settlement could have been postponed to the question of reforms, it must be remembered, on the other hand, that no reforms are possible until some kind of order is introduced into the finances. Moreover, it is, I believe, a fact that the question of reforms has been really occupying the attention both of the Sovereign and of the Porte; and it might therefore be premature to conclude that because His Majesty has changed his mind in reference to the immediate appointment of a Commissioner, and has allowed some six months to elapse since the Ambassadors first drew his attention to the Armenian question, he does not ultimately intend to act, at all events to a certain extent, in accordance with the assurances he has given. There is one thing, however, very evident, viz., that His Majesty entertains a fixed determination to taboo any arrangement which might have the appearance of according a special régime to the Armenians as a distinct nationality; and I fear, unless the matter is very closely watched, that the peculiar requirements of their situation may be intentionally ignored in whatever project may be ultimately determined upon by the Ottoman Government.

On the other hand, the idea of the Sultan to postpone the appointment of a Commissioner until after the reforms, whose application he is intended to superintend, shall have been elaborated, and who, instead of being simply furnished with a roving Commission, will then have a definite task to fulfil, is not unreasonable, although, of course, it would have been better that some one should have been sent to Armenia in the autumn, if only as an evidence of the Sultan's solicitude for his oppressed people. The real difficulty, I apprehend, lay in the Sultan's insuperable repugnance (the result of his jealous and suspicious nature) to advance any person of real importance, such as Moukhtar Pasha, to a position of influence and authority in the Empire.

Your Lordship will have observed that Munir Bey talked vaguely of the Sultan's seeing me shortly. I have received several messages to the same purport during the considerable interval that has now elapsed since I asked for an audience, as reported in my despatch No. 1075 of the 6th ultimo. Under ordinary circumstances, the delay which has supervened would be a matter of grave and significant import, but it would not be advisable to judge the Sovereign of Turkey by the rules which obtain in European Courts.

Hitherto, therefore, I have thought it better to abstain from any irritating language or fussy importunity, either at the Palace or at the Porte, in reference to these matters, and have endeavoured rather to obtain the end in view by a system of patient and conciliatory persistence. This line of conduct I would still ask your Lordship's permission to continue for some time longer, until every reasonable plea and excuse for delay shall have been exhausted. If we then find that our efforts to obtain a decent system of Government for Armenia are still unavailing, and that reason and persuasion have proved futile, it will be for Her Majesty's Government to

instruct me as to what further action they may desire me to adopt. Happily, delay at this season of the year is less fraught with evil consequences than at any other time, as when once the snow has fallen in the uplands of Kurdistan, there supervenes a period of artificial tranquillity throughout that region, as the difficulty of getting from place to place of necessity puts a stop to the robberies and depredations of marauders.

Your Lordship will have observed that when Munir Bey referred to the indifference manifested by the other Powers to the Armenian question, I refrained from admitting the accuracy of his observations; but although I have no reason to complain of my colleagues, as Count Corti, the German Chargé d'Affaires, and the Austrian Ambassador have, at my request, again pressed the Sultan upon the subject of Armenian Reforms, the Turks have been quite acute enough to comprehend that, with the exception of England, all the other Governments are comparatively indifferent to the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 13.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 18.)

(No. 16.) *Constantinople, January* 11, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that the Minister of Justice has telegraphed to Aleppo for all the papers connected with the case of Daoud Effendi, ex-Governor of Zeitoun, who has been released from prison by the local authorities, as I noticed in my despatch No. 1019 of the 25th November, with a view to prevent the ends of justice being defeated. It would seem, however, from a despatch of Mr. Henderson's, that the criminal removed from Aleppo the moment he was released. I fear, therefore, that there is but little chance of our being able to obtain his reincarceration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 14.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 18.)

(No. 18.) *Constantinople, January* 11, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copies of two despatches addressed by Major Everett to Major Trotter, inclosing an interesting Report on Tortum and the Valley of Tchoruk Su. I should desire to bring to your Lordship's notice the care with which Major Everett has drawn up this Report.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 14.

Major Everett to Major Trotter.

(No. 26.) *Erzeroum, December* 21, 1881.

Sir,

I BEG to forward herewith a Report on the Caza of Tortum, and on a journey made by me last autumn from that district over to Petegrek, and up the Valley of the Tchoruk Su to Baiburt.

Very little being known of this portion of the vilayet, I have on this occasion given some information on the general nature of the country as well as on the products to be found, both vegetable and mineral, which I trust may not prove uninteresting.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 14.

Report by Major Everett on the District of Tortum, and of a Journey through Giskin, Ispir, and a portion of the Caza of Baiburt.

THE Caza of Tortum is the north-western canton of the Sandjak of Erzeroum. Triangular in shape, it comprises an area of some 1,200 square miles, lying between the new Russian frontier to the eastward and the mountains separating the Tortum Su from the Tchoruk Su to the westward, while the Daudu Dagh, Karchabazar Mountains, and Kiretschlu Dagh, forming the base of the triangle, separate it from the Cazas of Erzeroum and the Passin to the south. The district was formerly divided into the two Mudirliks of Narriman and Tortum, the seat of government for the latter district being at Azort; but the reduction in size of both districts by the advance of the Russian frontier, and the introduction by Abédine Pasha of the system of unpaid Mudirs, rendered it necessary to make some alteration in the form of government, and about eight months ago the two districts were erected into a caza, with Devrish Bey, the former Mudir of Tortum, as Kaimakam. The seat of government has since been removed from Azort to Nikhakh, a more central position, and possessing better communications both with Erzeroum and the surrounding villages.

The general fall of the country is from south to north, and so rapid that marked changes of climate are to be found within the limits of the caza; thus, between the point where the road crosses the watershed south of Shipek and the village of Is, on the southern shore of the lake of Tortum, the difference of level is 3,500 feet. The whole district is a mass of mountains, both striking in appearance and peculiar in shape. The aspect is due to the varied sands and marls of the new red sandstone, of which geological system these mountains form a part. The form can only be attributed to some tremendous convulsion of Nature, which appears to have affected a very large area, stretching far to the north and north-west from a line drawn east and west through the village of Sagher, and which, breaking up the entire surface of the country, at the same time raised the dip of the strata to a very high angle. The general result is ranges of mountains the sides of which are more or less precipitous, inclosing narrow and contracted valleys. Thus, while the slopes of the mountains to the south, such as the Daudu Dagh, Karghabazar, and a portion of the Kiretschlu Mountains, present a smooth and rounded appearance, and are more or less covered with turf, offering good pasturage, those of the mountains to the northward, comprising the Sivri Dagh, Mi-redin Dagh, &c., are rugged and rocky. Seen from a distance, and notably from the road which, passing over the northern spurs of the Karghabazar Mountains, leads to Id from Bav, these magnificent ranges, exhibiting every shade of colour, and capped with gigantic blocks of porphyry, basalt, and other igneous rocks, present a spectacle which could not fail to impress the most insensible of travellers. It must not be supposed, however, that this district is the bare, rugged, inhospitable country which it looks like. On penetrating the valleys they are found to possess great fertility. Clear streams, bordered by poplars, willows, and walnut trees, orchards teeming with all kinds of fruit, interspersed with patches of maize, and dotted over with the cottages of the cultivators, fill up in picturesque outline the bottoms of the valleys, while the rugged mountain sides are as often as not clothed with magnificent pine and fir, sometimes intermingled with silver birch.

The principal valleys which contain this profusion of fruit and other products are those of the Id Su, from the neighbourhood of Surp Sukis to Shekerli; of the Nikhakh Su, from Lisgyaff to its junction with the Tortum Su; and in a still greater degree the valley of the Tortum Su itself, from the village of Potcheuz, above Sagher, to its junction with the valley of the Tchoruk Su.

In all these valleys, but especially in the latter, fertility is encouraged and aided by the construction of weirs in the rivers, from which the water is conducted in channels dug for the purpose to the land it is intended to irrigate, or, where this is impossible, in wooden pipes carried along the sides of the precipices. Still the system admits of extension, especially in the valley of the Tortum Su, where the rapid fall of the river (1 in 79) renders it an easy matter to conduct the water to a great height on either bank.

That more ground is not taken up is due to the lethargy of the inhabitants, partly innate and partly arising from want of impulse. The transport of the products, particularly from the northern end of the caza, is always troublesome and often precarious. Below the junction of the Nikhakh Su with the Tortum Su, roads cease altogether, the substitute being narrow paths, which in many cases follow the talus of the precipices, and sometimes the sides, with the bed of the river as the only, and not always possible,

alternative. To take heavy loads along these paths is impossible, and hence a large number of horses or asses (the latter are in more general use) are required. If there were a ready means of disposing of any quantity of goods on their arrival at the Erzeroum market, the expense of the animals would be covered by the proceeds, but the outlet is not sufficient; moreover, the fruit deteriorates in transit. The chances of a good return for the labour and expense attending first efforts are thus too small to tempt the people to new enterprises.

As a full list of products, together with the levels at which they are to be found, is appended to this Report, it will not be necessary here to make more than a few remarks on the subject. Generally speaking, the highest level at which fruit appears to grow is about 5,000 feet above the sea, but I have found walnut trees growing well at 5,110 feet in exposed positions, and the small wild pear at a height of 5,700 feet. On descending to lower elevations the fruits of temperate climates are met with, until at 3,760 feet the vine is found.

From this level downwards there is a profusion of fruit, some of which could hardly be bettered by the most skilful European cultivator. The peaches are remarkable, both for size and flavour, and the same may be said of the pears, some sorts of which are as fine as any in Europe. Two species of the cornel tree grow well, and towards the north both are largely cultivated. So soon as the fruit is ripe, which occurs towards the end of September, the berries are collected and stoned, and the pulp of the fruit, being pounded into a paste and spread out on planks to dry in the sun, is afterwards rolled up and transported to the Erzeroum market. The kernel of the stone is also used as a medicine for dysentery. The jujube tree and fig are also to be found growing in the valleys towards the north, but no attention is paid to their cultivation. Very little of the maize appears to find its way to the Erzeroum market; most of it is retained for home consumption, and forms, together with dried fruits, the principal food of the population during the winter.

It will be noticed, on referring to Kiepert's map of Turkish Armenia, published in 1877, that the river known as the Tortum Su falls into and flows out of a lake situated about 13 miles south of the junction of the river with the Tchoruk Su. This lake is about 5 miles in length, averages half-a-mile in breadth, and is inclosed by lofty mountains with sides so precipitous that there is no possibility of traversing the shores, and people wishing to pass from the villages situated at the northern end to those at the south must make a considerable *détour* by a difficult mountain-path. To facilitate the transport of fruit from the northern villages, a boat, composed of the trunks of two large trees hollowed out, tied together by transverse beams, and connected by a wooden deck, plies from one end to the other, doing the distance with two rowers in three hours. The charge per horse-load is half-a-piastre. The animals go round by the mountain, the customers, however, being confined to the inhabitants of the three villages of Sykhyk, Kars, and Tevriz. There is not much work for the boat except during the fruit season. This lake has been pronounced by more than one writer to be unfathomable; but I do not believe it to be the case. Tying together a couple of trout-lines, I sounded to a depth of 162 feet at about one mile and a-half from the southern shore. Unfortunately, want of line prevented my continuing the observations. The probabilities are it is twice as deep at the northern end.

According to the story told by the inhabitants, this lake did not exist some 200 years ago. They still relate how the face of a huge mountain called the Kars Dagh, situated on the western side of the northern end, slipped and fell into the valley beneath, burying one or two villages in the *débris*, and how the waters rising behind submerged both a ruined castle and a portion of the existing village of Sykhyk. Although it is not easy to verify the length of time that may have elapsed since its formation, it is sufficiently apparent that the lake was formed in some such manner as that described by the villagers. The present eastern face of the Kars Dagh is composed of slate, indurated clay, and shale, the dip of the strata falling from west to east at a high angle. It seems very evident that this strata was covered originally with an immense mass of earth and rock, and that a huge land-slip occurring, the marks of which are clearly visible, the whole went tumbling into the river and dammed it up. The water behind, having risen to the top of the dyke thus formed, then commenced to cut for itself a new course through the soft *débris*, and the result is a series of cascades falling through a height of some 600 feet, of which the largest is 130 feet in height and 50 feet broad. According to the inhabitants, the lake is drying up, and I was shown a spot at the southern end, distant about a quarter of a mile from the present shore, where the water used to be some sixty years ago. It is more probable, however, that the deposition of immense quantities of sand and mud brought down in the river each year in the spring at the melting of the snows is the true cause of the phenomenon, and that it

would be more correct to say that the lake is filling up. From this short account it may be understood that the site is of some interest from a geological point of view, and it is unfortunate that it escaped the examination of Hamilton, who in 1836 passed so near to the spot, but was evidently not aware of its existence.

The Narriman side of the Tortum Caza is the depôt from which Erzeroum obtains the main of its supply of fuel at the present time. In a former despatch (No. 21, September 7, 1880) I have spoken of the forests of the Kiretschlu Dagh. On that occasion I observed them from the neighbourhood of Lewin and Karaourgan. I now found myself on the northern side of the same range. The wood is pine, covering an extensive area, but considerably thinned, and I am still of opinion that, unless some new store can be drawn upon, it will soon be exhausted. Such stores exist, but, unfortunately, an entire want of roads forbids the transport. The sides of the Sivri Dagh to the north of Lisgyaff and in the neighbourhood of Akpatsor, Agoushen, and Azort, are covered with pine, interningled in some parts with birch. The eastern slopes of the Migvelin Dagh and Divri Dagh, on the western side of the Tortum Su, are similarly covered, while to the northward, in the neighbourhood of Leuk, is an exceedingly fine forest of Scotch fir. These forests are for the most part situated between the levels of 4,000 and 8,000 feet above the sea, and it is improbable that they ever grew much lower, but doubtless they were far more extensive. Want of communications cuts them off entirely from Erzeroum, and in the meantime they are prodigally used and shamefully wasted by the inhabitants. It is no exaggeration to say that in certain places there are more trees lying on the ground, either rotting or half-burnt, than there are standing up. There are no local guardians, and there is no control whatever upon the cutting, every man taking what he wants, or more than he wants, without let or hindrance.

In other places, especially on some of the northern spurs of the Karghabazar Mountains, dwarf fir is abundant. Besides the poplar and the willow, I have not noticed any other variety of tree in the valleys, fruit trees excepted; but the straight-growing variety of the former attains a considerable height and girth. Among bushes the wild barberry and wild cypress are the most common. It is in the forests in the neighbourhood of Narriman that threshing-boards, the wheels and axles of arabas, snow-shovels, and other wooden utensils are roughed out. They are afterwards transported for sale to Erzeroum and the Passin.

At the commencement of this Report it has been observed that the geological system is the new red sandstone. Salt and its accessories may therefore be looked for, and neither the miner nor the mineralogist will be disappointed. Gypsum in very large quantities, as well as its varieties alabaster, selenite, and satin-spar—are to be found in the area inclosed by Bar, Tortum Kaleh, Narriman, and Shekerli; and within the same limits there are probably immense quantities of salt, worked at Bar and Id from saliferous springs, and at Rahat from the rock. Of these the brine spring at Bar is the most productive. The water is carried several hundred yards in wooden troughs, having a transverse section of 3 inches square, and is passed into reservoirs supplying 180 pans. These pans are simply shallow pits constructed in the sandy soil, and paved with small stones. There is no covering overhead, for no artificial heat is used. The evaporation is conducted entirely by the heat of the sun during a short season of three months, viz., from June to August inclusive, during which the pans are filled five times, and yield on an average 203,000 okes per annum. The yield is, of course, very precarious, and in wet years comparatively small, while a heavy shower of rain occurring just before evaporation in the pans is complete will often delay operations altogether. Here, too, more than three hours of sunlight are lost simply by the position of the pans, which are situated in a narrow valley between two high hills. As two or three hundred yards further on there is a magnificent place for the pans, the only extra expense being as many yards of wooden piping, it is difficult to understand why they were ever placed in the position they now occupy, whereby a considerable revenue is lost. The spring at Id is, in its present condition, of comparatively little use, being only capable of filling a reservoir twice a-year, and nine pans twice in a season. The average yield is about 3,000 okes per annum. It is probable that, if a shaft were sunk and a pump applied, much better results would be obtained. Receiving information at Id that in drawing the new frontier-line the Commissioners had, at the village of Kerktik, cut through some salt-works, leaving the spring in Turkey and the pans in Russia, I determined to satisfy myself on the subject, and accordingly went over to Kerktik, a small village in the hills to the east of the Narriman road. The story turned out, like so many that one hears, to be an invention; but I learnt that there was once a very fine brine spring below the village, supplying some 200 pans. It is a long time since it has been worked. The pans are destroyed and the spring covered up. I examined the spot personally. There is plenty of salt in the water, which still forces its

way out at this spot, and probably rock-salt would be found in the neighbourhood if searched for. The only mine of rock-salt at present worked is that of Rabat. It is in a most dilapidated condition, and altogether devoid of any artificial accessories to facilitate the working; indeed, there is not even a road to the mine. Some of the salt is particularly pure, and there can be no doubt that, if skill and money were laid out upon it, it would become a profitable concern. Nearly all the springs rising in the mountains in this neighbourhood are more or less charged with carbonate of soda, which occurs as a white efflorescence on the banks of the streams. Further north the water contains considerable quantities of carbonate of lime.

Large quarries of a very fine quality of sandstone, possessing remarkable durability, are to be found in the valley of the Odek Su, near Vykhyk-Kapisi. It is particularly suitable for building purposes. Shekerli is also renowned for its building stone. A large number of igneous products, including several kinds of beautiful porphyry, are prominent throughout the district.

The inhabitants of this caza, which is divided into thirteen mudiriliks, are for the most part Moslems. Out of 170 villages, 11 are Laz, 9 are Armenian, and the remainder Turkish, with here and there a sprinkling of Kurds, 34 Circassian families at Pertanos, and a considerable number of Terekemen refugees, who have emigrated from Russia since the war. There is no possibility of obtaining accurate figures for the Turkish population, but the number of families in the Armenian villages is 295. Multiplying these figures by 8 (the average for a family in a village, according to famine statistics), it gives a total of 2,360 souls. Of these, 672 are Catholics.* The people are everywhere quiet and tractable, in places not very hospitable, generally speaking poor, but apparently perfectly contented with their lot. There seems to be very little robbery, and considering that the only force at the command of the Kaimakam is twenty-two ragged and badly-armed zaptiehs, a quantity totally insufficient for so extended a district, the comparative tranquillity is highly creditable to the inhabitants. The Lazi are the only people who give trouble. The Kurds are not nomad. They live in tents on the spurs of the Kharghalazar Mountains during the summer months, but I could not hear of their committing any excesses. I have said that in some places the people were inhospitable; it is not, however, their nature; and the inhospitality, which amounted to my only obtaining with the greatest difficulty food and forage, though offering a price considerably above the value, is to be found only upon roads often travelled by officials. These poor people—I am speaking of the Turks—are so continually robbed that they appear to have lost faith in all promise of payment.

In the southern portion of the caza land belongs principally either to the mosques, or to Beys or Notables, either resident in the district or living at Erzeroum. The landlord and cultivator share the products equally, as well as the taxes, which in the case of fruit is taken in money, and varies according to the year. To ascertain this amount, the Government official visits the orchards in the spring, after the fruit has set, and, estimating the probable quantity, rates it accordingly. The present year was unusually bad, and the tax amounted to about 2 piastres (4½*d.*) per tree. Last year, there being great quantities of fruit, the tax on every tree was half-a-piastre higher. Of course, the rate of taxation is not absolutely dependent on the amount of the product. The relations between the Government official and the landlord have much to say to the matter, and in a lesser degree those between the official and the tenant, and so it arises that in certain instances there are complaints enough of hard and unfair treatment. The grain tax, a tenth of the crop, is taken in kind. The grass tax is a tenth of the crop, and is taken in kind or in money; if in money, then at the rate of 8 paras (one-fifth of a piastre) the oke. The other taxes are a property tax of 1 per cent.; a sheep tax of 3½ piastres per head, much complained of on account of the gradual rise since the war from 1½ piastres; and a tax on the sale of animals at the rate of 5 per cent.

In addition to these Government taxes, there are three village officials to be subscribed for, viz., the Nukhtar, the Tchaoush, and the Mollah. The first receives from the village a yearly sum of money averaging about £ T. 5. His duties are to accompany the Government official in estimating the fruit tax, and generally to look after the interests of the village. The Tchaoush is intrusted with the entertainment of all travellers, Government officials, &c., and is paid in kind a certain proportion of every crop. The Mollah is also kept at the expense of the community.

It can be well understood that, after having complied with all these demands upon his pocket, the husbandman has not much left to get rich on. Fortunately, his wants are small. As a rule, he has but one wife; he lives principally on fruits, fresh or dried, and

* See Appendix (B).

on Indian corn, never touching meat from one year's end to the other. His only extravagance is his tobacco, but it is as necessary to him as his food. In the northern parts of the caza there are very few tenants. Nearly all the people appear to be proprietors of small patches of ground, consisting usually of a cottage and outhouses situated in an orchard in the valley; while others, better off, possess, in addition, barns and fields at the "yailas," or mountain farms. Throughout the whole of the more mountainous portion of the caza two villages, the one situated in the valley and the other in the mountains, are generally to be found—that in the mountains being called after the name of the village, with the addition of "yaila-si," meaning, literally, "its pasture land or summer encampment." These "yailas" are often far removed from the villages proper. In the case of the village of Azort, for instance, the "yaila" is on the other side of one of the highest spurs of the Sivri Dagh. Here are found large flocks, fields, threshing-floors, and immense wooden barns, and here, at certain seasons, nearly all the able-bodied inhabitants of the lower village stay. This migration, together with the custom existing in the northern valleys of burying the dead by families in the neighbourhood of the cottages, instead of altogether in a common cemetery removed from the village, led a traveller, who afterwards published an account of his travels, to remark on the fever-stricken villages to be found in this district, in some of which, he says, all the inhabitants had died, and nothing was left but empty houses and graves; the fact of the matter being that the people were all up at the "yailas." At the same time, in many of the valleys and in the vicinity of the lake, the inhabitants suffer greatly from fever, especially in the spring. The price of property varies according to the space available for cultivation. Where this is cramped, it is dear. For this reason land at the "yailas" is cheaper than in the valleys. It is also dearer in the southern portions of the caza, where communications are easier, than towards the north. At every place the value changes, but, generally speaking, it is not dearer than £ T. 3 for a piece of land on which one "god" of grain can be sown; nor cheaper than £ T. 1; in other words, from 5*l.* to 16*l.* the acre.*

The quality of the soil varies a good deal. In the salt area, previously referred to, it is in places very fertile, returning as much as fifteenfold on the seed.† The villages in these valleys vary from those in the upland plains in that they are more scattered, that the houses stand in their own orchards or gardens, and that they are more above ground, one-half only being built into the slope of a hill-side, and this more probably from economy of labour and material than for warmth. A more marked change is noticeable where wood becomes abundant. Here the lower storeys of the houses are usually of stone, with one-half built into a bank or hill-side, if possible, and upon the top a second of wood is invariably constructed as a summer residence. The roof is formed of heavy beams, covered with the usual layer of earth, the whole structure being often very picturesque. Wooden outhouses and sheds usually surround the main building, rough applications of woodwork are everywhere visible, and the orchards are in many cases inclosed by palings furnished with rude gates. There is, in fact, an air of civilization about these tenements of the poor, due to the presence of wood, which is not to be found in the more bigoted tracks of the vilayet where this community does not exist.

Although the population is almost entirely Moslem, there is abundant evidence that it was once as entirely Christian. In the first place, the names of many of the villages now occupied by Turks are Armenian names; and secondly, there are to be found many ruins of Christian churches and cemeteries. No less than twenty ruined churches exist to-day in this district, two of which, at Eushk and Khakhon, rank among the most beautiful on the whole Continent. That at Khakhon is the most elaborately decorated and the best preserved. It is now a Turkish mosque. The church at Eushk is ruined, but nevertheless is in a good state of preservation, and a long and perfect inscription in the Georgian language remains over the principal entrance. Both churches are of the same shape and outline, *i.e.*, cruciform, the east end being terminated in an apex. In the centre of the cross a circular tower surmounted by a roof which, from the interior, assumes the shape of a cupola, but from the outside is conical and covered with tiles, as Khakhon glazed and coloured. Both, too, are built of sandstone taken from quarries in the neighbourhood, and of such fine quality that time appears to have little effect upon it.

What may have become of the ancient inhabitants is a question for speculation. Emigrations at different times into Russia will doubtless account for the disappearance of great numbers. The last of these, occurring as late as the campaign of Paskewitch (1829), is well remembered by the Armenians residing in the country, and according to their

* Gardens are sold according to the value of the produce, and at the rate of 15 per cent.

† In England such a return would hardly be considered a sign of great fertility, but in this country, owing to imperfect cultivation, fifteenfold is seldom exceeded, and is only returned on the best soils.

account was on a considerable scale. It is also maintained by some that many of the present inhabitants are not Turks but Mussulman Armenians. I believe there are good grounds for this assertion. Both here and in the valley of the Tehoruk, &c., I met with Mussulmans bearing Armenian names and having a very decided Armenian type of countenance. It may, therefore, perhaps be concluded that while emigration has removed considerable numbers who have been replaced, but not to the same extent, by Turks, a large proportion of the remainder embraced the faith of Islam to escape persecution, and are still resident in the country, passing both officially and privately as Mussulman Turks. Sala Pasha, a Governor in these provinces some 200 years ago, was the chief instrument in this matter, and the perversion of these Armenians may be dated principally from his time.

The lot of the inhabitants in this district is somewhat exceptional. Removed from the great highways of commerce and from the bands of robbers who infest them, unmolested by nomad Kurds, sheltered by the mountains to the north-west from the incursions of the Lazi, hitherto out of the war-path and placed in a genial climate and on a productive soil, they are enabled to lead a life which, for peace and tranquillity, contrasts strongly and most favourably with that of their more unfortunate fellow-countrymen of the great plains of Upper Armenia.

At the time of my visit they were also fortunate in their Kaimakam, Devrish Bey, a man of great influence in the country, just, and deservedly popular with both Turks and Armenians. But this officer has been since dismissed, for no fault, except, perhaps, that he had not sufficient interest at Constantinople to keep him in his position.

From the valley of the Tortum Su, in the neighbourhood of the lake, to that of the Tehoruk Su in the direction of Petegrek, there are no roads. The passages over the intervening range of mountains are simply horse-paths of more or less difficulty, and the selection of my route was confined to the only one on which the inhabitants could assure me that loaded horses were able to travel. This track passes from the southern end of the lake by Eushk, and crossing over the Divri Dagh at a height of 8,200 feet, descends at a very steep slope through magnificent pine forests to the large and flourishing village of Ersis (4,215 feet). From here a further descent of 2,125 feet brought me to the Turkish village of Petegrek on the Tehoruk Su, the level of the river at this point being 2,040 feet above that of the sea. Petegrek is in the district of Giskin, formerly a Mudirlik, but now a part of the Caza of Ispir belonging to the Mutessariflik of Baiburt.*

This caza is bounded on the north-east by the Barkhal Su, flowing from the neighbourhood of Mount Mlatskar into the Tehoruk Su below Ashmishen; on the south-east by the crest of the chain of mountains which, stretching from the direction of the Kop Dagh (south of the Upper Tehoruk Su) to the junction of the Tortum Su with the Tehoruk Su, separates the valley of the former from that of the latter towards the east, and the valley of the Upper Tehoruk from that of the Kara Su (Euphrates) towards the west; on the north-west by the crest of the great chain of mountains stretching between the Tehoruk and the sea, of which Mount Mlatskar, the Kintchkhar Dagh, Demir Dagh, and Soghanli Dagh are among the principal; and on the south-west by a line drawn from the Soghanli Dagh to the mountains forming the south-eastern boundary and passing immediately east of the village of Takht. The total area is about 2,000 square miles. The small piece of territory remaining to Turkey between the north-eastern boundary and the new Russian frontier belongs to the Vilayet of Trebizond, and the opposite faces of the mountains forming the north-western boundary is Turkish Lazistan, also belonging to the Vilayet of Trebizond. From the north-eastern boundary as far as Zagos and Khodatchor, the country is called by the inhabitants Gurdjistan.

For most of the distance from Ispir to the boundary of the vilayet the River Tehoruk winds through a deep and narrow gorge, the sides of which are so precipitous as to preclude the possibility of travelling along the banks. The width of the river is very variable, but it is probably nowhere narrower than 40 yards nor wider than 70. The general fall is about 1 in 132, but actually it descends in successive pools and streams, the pools being long and deep, the streams full of rocks and seldom easily fordable even in the autumn. The only means of communication at present between one side and the other available in all seasons are a few rickety wooden bridges. At Ispir a new bridge is in course of construction.

From the crests of the mountains on either side enormous spurs depend, intersected by deep and narrow but fertile valleys in which the villages are usually situated. To make any progress in a direction parallel to the river these huge features must be crossed, and in the total absence of roads, a narrow and often dangerous path is the only means. Level

* The Caza of Ispir is divided into seventeen Mudirliks. Only one Mudir is Christian, viz., that of Khodatchor.

space on either bank is rarely to be found. In the neighbourhood of Petegrek the valley opens out a little, but is not wider than 600 yards, and it closes in again within the distance of a mile. I do not think there is any part of the valley wider than this between Petegrek and Ispir.

From these few words it may be understood that the valley of the Tehoruk Su, in this its lower part, is merely a defile of stupendous size, which throughout the greater part of its length can only be traversed on foot, or on the back of a surefooted horse or mule, in single file. It is a natural barrier to all comers, and, in its present roadless condition, presents an impassable obstacle to an army, whether that army be advancing from the east or from the west.

The two principal products in the eastern portion of Gurdjistan are grapes and rice. Of the former there are many kinds, all of which are exported to Erzeroum, but the difficulty attending the transport greatly detracts from the value, and some of the best fruit never leaves the country. Vines grow well up to a level of 4,000 feet above the sea in the neighbourhood of Petegrek, and are trained upon the fruit trees. They do not, however, grow everywhere at this level. At Ispir, for instance, where the level of the river is 3,838 feet, there are no vines, in fact, they are not found further west than Nepi Giskin. At Petegrek wine is made, according to the Turks, for the use of the Armenians at Khodatchor, but I take it a good deal is drunk on the premises. The rice-fields are of course as low down in the valley as possible, and every spot of ground available for this purpose is made use of by the inhabitants, who have often to expend considerable labour to obtain the level surface required for these crops.

On the hill-sides, wherever the slope of the ground will admit of it, the fields are laid out in terraces one above the other. The water is obtained in some cases from the Tehoruk Su, but, generally speaking, it is turned off from the streams flowing down the lateral valleys, which are nearly exhausted in this work before they reach the main river. Very little of the rice is exported from the caza. Like the maize of Tortum, the main of it is retained for the use of the people, with whom it is the principal article of food. The crop this year was full, but the quality poor, the grains small, round, and dark, are boiled with difficulty, but are nevertheless of good flavour. Poorness of seed rather than poorness of soil is the probable cause of this undersized growth. In addition to these two important products, there is every kind of fruit, of which the mulberry, the pear, and the peach are pre-eminent, both for quantity and quality. Between Petegrek and Durt-Kilissa, a village some 6 miles lower down the river, I found both the hop and the pomegranate growing wild. The fruit area extends almost to the western limits of the caza in the neighbourhood of the river, but different shades are passed through until only indifferent apples, pears, and plums are met with. On approaching Ispir the southern range of mountains recedes somewhat, and the country on the right bank becomes more open, with an increased cultivation of cereals upon the spurs near the river. This still runs unseen in a deep ravine, and the northern range of mountains still retains its rugged and formidable appearance. The highest peaks, which must be fully 6,000 feet above the level of the river, were covered with snow at the time I saw them (October). To the west of Ispir, although the country maintains the character already described, it is of a milder nature. The products on this side are principally cereals.

There is plenty of timber on both banks of the river high up in the mountains, and there is more on the right bank than on the left. In fact, from above Ojik (opposite Petegrek) to the neighbourhood of Zagos, the upper slopes of the southern range of mountains are more or less covered with pine, while the lower spurs are clothed with oak scrub and wild cypress. The pine in many places is getting very thin, and the inhabitants are beginning to feel the effects of waste and prodigality, but many magnificent forests still remain. There are also several extensive patches of young pine coming on, which, if the people would only leave alone, would serve them in good stead some day. The lowest level of the pine in this valley is about 5,000 feet above the sea. In the neighbourhood of Ispir timber ceases to exist, but the scrub is met with in considerable profusion as far as Pigéi, a village near the junction of the Berna Su with the Tehoruk Su. Nearly opposite this point, on the Soghanli Dagh, there is said to be a magnificent forest containing various kinds of timber; but the absence of roads renders it useless to the inhabitants of the plain. The same dreadful waste is to be observed in this caza as in the Tortum district, and everywhere the wood is lying about rotting. Of other trees there are none at the higher elevations, but in the valleys the poplar and the willow are to be found in addition to the fruit trees.

The neighbourhood of Ispir has from ancient times been celebrated for its mineral wealth, but at the present day there is no attempt whatever made to turn this wealth to account. I regret greatly that I was unable to make a more lengthened stay in this

interesting locality in order to explore more completely the places where ore is said to exist. At Ekirghir, on the left bank of the river, six hours above Ispir, and at Suleiman Bar, four hours from Ispir, there is said to be copper; at Kyan, a village close to Ispir, and at Semarik, four hours from Ispir, there is said to be silver; also at Karakan, in the Gurmeh Dagh, four hours from Ispir, there is coal. The copper-mine at Ekirghir is valuable. Not only is there a great deal of ore, but it is very rich, containing, according to an analysis made by the Government Inspector of Mines, 90 per cent. of metal. I have a piece on my table at this moment; it is almost pure metal. The surroundings also are favourable, both wood and water being plentiful in the immediate neighbourhood. A large amount of clay in the neighbourhood of Kyan is sufficient evidence that at some time or other ore has been worked there, but the people did not seem to know anything about it. Of the silver ore in the neighbourhood of Semarik I have a specimen in my possession; it is not very rich. I obtained also a piece of the Karakan coal. It is impure lignite, and quite worthless. Whether anything better is to obtained by sinking is a question that I cannot answer.

On the chances of finding copper at Suleiman Bar I can give no certain information. From the general appearance of the country, it is probable that at many other places besides those here indicated metallic minerals would be found if searched for. I have at this moment before me a good specimen of specular iron ore (hæmatite) picked up in a valley below Zagos, and I also found iron at Tchourgenis. As in the Tortum district, so here, the colour of the soil is very varied—red, grey, and yellow sands predominating. Through these enormous masses of porphyry, greenstone and basalt protrude, the basalt often assuming a columnar structure. Good granite is to be found in the neighbourhood of Khodatchor and Peregrek. From Ispir to the westward, on the lower spurs, immense quantities of travertine are to be found. This stone has been largely used in the construction of the old castle of Ispir, and for gravestones in the ancient Armenian cemeteries. The quality of the soil varies. Generally speaking it is better to the westward. At Zagos it is very poor, and at Garmeride only returns twofold on the seed. Water, too, in that neighbourhood is scarce, and sometimes the cereals fail altogether. In the best of years the quantity of grain produced is not sufficient to supply the wants of the people, and large importations have to be made from Baiburt and Erzeroum. The chief exports from the caza, in addition to fruit, fresh and dried, are honey, wax, butter, oxen, mules, asses, sheep, and horses. Transport has to be entirely conducted by mules, horses, or asses, for no roads exist suitable for wheeled vehicles. Mules are most commonly preferred. In some of the well-wooded districts a wide sleigh, drawn by two oxen, serves as a conveyance for brushwood, but the use is only local.

The seat of government is Ispir (the ancient "Sher"), more commonly known in the country as the Kassaba, or "the Town." It is said to have contained at one time a population of 30,000 Armenians. Whatever the truth of this assertion may be, certainly no vestige of their habitations remains now; but there are in the vicinity some very ancient cemeteries, in which the presence of the "rani couchant" affords proof that they are Armenians. The Ispir of to-day is a village of sixty Turkish and twenty-five Armenian houses, situated on an eminence on the right bank of the Tchoruk Su, which flows at this point in a deep gorge immediately to the northward. Two long spurs, descending from the mountains on either side to the river, form the portals of a natural gateway, formerly defended by a castle placed at the western end of the eminence on which the present village stands, and of which the ruins still remain. The houses, with the exception of one or two, are mere cottages built of stone, half underground and covered with earth, not differing, in fact, from the usual type to be found in any part of the country where wood is not easily obtained. A small and unimportant bazaar supplies the few wants of the inhabitants.

Further westward, where there is abundance of timber, the houses are for the most part built of massive logs of pine-wood, roofed, in the neighbourhood of Ersis, with planks of the same material, on which large stones are placed, precisely after the manner of cottages in Switzerland. There is another peculiarity in the eastern part of the caza which is remarkable. Very many of the villages possess several quarters, sometimes called after the name of the principal village, sometimes bearing other names. Thus, there are three villages of Tchourgenis; eight, comprising Khodatchor, but all called after different names; four composing Moklurdori, &c. It is difficult to say how these quarters originated, but probably from the construction of "yailas" at which a portion of the inhabitants got in live altogether. The principal village is generally situated in the valley, and, when Turkish, may be distinguished from the others by a neat mosque with a minaret of pinewood. The other quarters are usually on neighbouring spurs. Although, from what information I could gather at different places, the land belongs principally to

the people, still in certain parts there are very large land-owners to be found, who are usually descendants of the "Dere" or "Valley" Beys. What immense influence these Beys had once in this country is well known. At the present time they are respected or disliked according as they are good or bad landlords, and indeed it seems they have to be careful how they behave themselves, for I learnt that the konak of a certain Bey, in whose orchard I pitched my tents, had been twice burnt down by his Turkish tenants during the last twelve years in retaliation for acts of oppression. The largest landlord to the eastward is Devrish Bey, the late Kaimakam of Tortum; he owns entirely several villages. The chief proprietors and most influential men between Ispir and Baiburt are Nefi Oglou, Hadji Tefik Kochanan Oglou, Hadji Heldar Bey, and Edil Bey.

The relations between landlord and tenant, the taxes to be paid, and the methods of collecting them are similar to those already described for Tortum. As in that district, so here, I could get no satisfactory statistics for the Turkish population. The census to which I have referred in my despatch No. 19 of the 21st September, 1881, was about to be commenced, but nobody seemed to know exactly when. I obtained, however, statistics of the Armenian population, which I have embodied in Appendix (B), and which probably are not very far from the truth. These only differ by a surplus of 252 souls, so far as the Gregorian Armenians are concerned, from those presented by the Armenian Patriarch last year. The number of Catholic Armenians I make greater by 1,320 than the number given by the Patriarch; but, even with this difference, they are sufficiently near each other to show that both are approximately correct. According to some official statistics which I was able to obtain at Baiburt, the Armenians form about one-seventh of the total population. I cannot vouch for the truth of these statistics, which were compiled before the war; but there can be no doubt that the Christian Armenians are in a very great minority. I say "Christian Armenians," for, in the eastern portion of Gurdjistan, there are doubtless many Mussulman Armenians, still recognizable by their names and those of their villages. Of the Christian Armenians, the Catholics are to be found almost exclusively in the old Mudirlik of Giskin, and the Gregorians throughout the caza; but the larger proportion of the latter inhabit villages to the westward of Ispir. Like the rest of their nation, they are quiet and orderly, occupying themselves only with the cultivation of their land. The Catholics, having no national aspirations, never meddle with politics; but, in this district, the Gregorians appear to be equally callous, desiring only security for their lives and property. In no part of the vilayet that I have yet visited is there greater need of steps being taken to procure it. Throughout the whole of this district, but more especially eastward of Ispir, in the neighbourhood of Khodatchor, no man can look upon his home without the thought that perhaps to-morrow it may be but a smouldering heap of ruins; no man can take his oxen out to plough with any certainty that he will bring them back again, or that he himself even will return alive; nor can any one count on retaining the few lira he may have contrived to scrape together. Everything that these people possess is at the mercy of that insatiable robber, the Laz, who, descending into the valley of the Tchoruk from the mountains to the northward, is the scourge of the entire country. From what I could hear, these brigands come over in parties, principally from the Caza of Hemshin (Mutessariflik of Riza, Vilayet of Trebizond), either with contraband tobacco, which they force the villagers to buy from them at their own price, or for the purpose of obtaining money or anything else they may require. Presenting themselves at a village in broad daylight, they call up the Head-man, and request him to collect at once some 10 or 15 lira, in the meantime ordering a meal to be prepared while the money is being got together. The demand is usually accompanied by a threat of burning the village down if the money is not forthcoming. At other times, the house of a man known to possess wealth is pillaged and burnt to the ground.

Although the information I am giving is hearsay, and therefore, as evidence, worthless, I fear the accounts are but too true. Three days before my arrival at Zagos the priest of the village of Garmerik was robbed of everything he possessed, and his house burnt to the ground. Of this there is no doubt, for I sent my cavass over to Garmerik to bring in the chief men to me. On his approach, the villagers, believing him to be a robber, fled and hid themselves. The chief men complained bitterly of their lot, and told me that, prior to this event, they had begged the Kaimakam for zaptiehs. This official, they said, had offered to send over one or two for a consideration of £T. 5, but, the money not being paid, the zaptiehs did not go. Not long ago* the monastery of Surp-Hoobiannes, on a mountain to the southward, between Ispir and Norkiakh, was completely sacked and the guardian killed. The priest of the Armenian village of Khozakpoor, in the mountains near Baiburt, was killed two years ago by the Lazi. Wherever I stopped, in fact, some such tales as these were reported to me." The Turks, who live on tolerably good terms

* Since my return a house has been burnt down in Khodatchor, and the owner very severely wounded.

with their Christian neighbours in this district, suffer greatly, though not to the same extent. The robbers do not, for instance, come upon them in broad daylight to demand blackmail, nor do they burn their villages over their heads; but they prowl round them at night, and carry off anything portable that is not guarded. The Laz is thus the common enemy of the country, and complaints were lodged against him both by Turk and Christian. The Government take no steps whatever to repress this robbery. Possibly there is not the wish, but, if there were, certainly there is not the means. The total police force for the caza, according to the official register at Baiburt, is 31. The actual strength, according to the Kaimakam of Ispir, is 10. Three of these have been stationed at Khodatchor during a portion of the past summer. Perhaps the people paid the L.T. 5. Deducting 2 more, at least, for the service of the Kaimakam, 5 are left to keep order through this extensive and mountainous district. Neither Husni Bey, the Kaimakam, nor his Medjliss bear a very good character in the caza, and I received many complaints against them, both from Turks and Christians. Husni Bey is a refugee of the family of Ismail Pasha, and was put into the place he now occupies a year ago, probably through the influence of Yussuf Pasha, his cousin, the Mutessarif of the sandjak. He may not be a bad-intentioned man, but I should say that he is ignorant of government, and very much in the hands of his Medjliss, some of whom bear a very bad reputation. The fact of his being a refugee, too, does not tend to make him popular in a caza where he is an entire stranger, and where the people have been so long accustomed to the yoke of its own aristocracy. He assured me that he would be only too glad to put a stop to the robbery if he had the means at his disposal, but that he was, at present, perfectly powerless. He, however, at my request, sent over, or said that he had sent over, three zaptiehs to Garnerik the day before I left. The principal complaint against the Government was over-taxation, but for this it can hardly be held responsible, seeing that the orders are received from superiors. Still, injustice may be, and probably is, done by the subordinate officers. At Ispir the Turks complained that the Local Government had formed a Company, and were selling the tithe at a higher price than they should do. I dare say they are, and, in addition, I have no doubt are practising a thousand other villanies, to the detriment of the poor and the benefit of their own pockets. The fact of the matter is, a far stricter watch is required over the officials, who, in this out-of-the-way corner of the vilayet, do pretty much what they like; but the primary want is security for life and property.

In proceeding to the westward from the Caza of Ispir, the valley of the Tchoruk Su widens greatly until in the neighbourhood of the village of Haik, at the junction of the Berna Su with the Tchoruk, it has the character of a level plain, some 6,000 yards in width, in places marshy, in others intersected by ditches full of water and extensively cultivated. From this point to Ispir the river falls 1 in 237, but in other respects is similar in character to that portion already described. To the northward the mountains of Lazistan rise abruptly from the plain which, in the valley of the Berna Su, appears to retain a width of 3 or 4 miles. To the south a lower range is inclosed by the Tchoruk Su, which in the upper part of its course flows from east to west, while some smooth bare hills in the fork between the rivers command the plain from the westward.

Haik is a village inhabited principally by Armenians. It is situated off the usual road to Baiburt, and, like one or two other villages at which I stopped, had never before been visited by an European. Some Russian soldiers made their appearance there in 1829, but not during the last two campaigns. The people complained greatly of robbers who come down in parties, principally from Lazistan, and also of a Laz Notable residing in their village, who is said to secretly employ his countrymen to rob the people. I believe there is a great deal of this sort of protection given to the brigands throughout the Tchoruk Su valley by men of influence who, screened by their outward air of respectability, and sometimes by an official position, are in reality the organizers of many of the acts of violence which are committed. No complaints were made against the Baiburt Government, except that it neglected them and overtaxed them. Cereals only are cultivated in this large alluvial plain. The soil is rich, often returning fifteenfold on the seed. There are no trees in the vicinity, but oak scrub is to be found upon the southern hills at one or two hours' distance.

Throughout the whole length of the valley, from Petegrek to Haik, there are but three communications with the coast. The first of these is a three days' journey from Garnerik to Atina, the first and second day over a horse-path of extreme difficulty, the third on a cart track. The second is from Ispir to Riza, by Chabantz, Djimil, and Anbarluk. I made particular inquiries about this route, because it has been often mentioned to me as the shortest and best line between Erzeroum and the coast. From what I could learn, the difficulties of road-making would not be so very great. The

distance from the coast to Erzeroum by this route would be the half of that now in use by Gumush Khaneh and Baiburt. The third is from Khart to Surmeneh over the Padishatosi Dagh. This, though at present a horse-path, is not represented as presenting any formidable difficulties, and is a much straighter line from the coast to Baiburt. A fourth route is marked in the map from Vaskishen to Of, but the people were not able to give me any information about it.

From Haik, a short march, most of the way through a narrow gorge in which the Tchoruk flows (reduced in width to about 20 yards, and falling 1 in 370), brought me to Baiburt. Here I saw a good deal of Yussuf Pasha, the Mutessarif, who, while he seemed fully alive to the necessity of securing the welfare of the inhabitants, pleaded inability, principally through want of liberty of action. He said that if he were only allowed to reduce the number of useless officials by whom he was surrounded, he could easily double the existing force of zaptiehs, and, in addition, provide for strong posts at the most exposed points, paying the whole of them well out of the present revenues. In order to keep the country quiet, he had during last winter applied for troops to be stationed at Baiburt, Ispir, and Giskin, but, owing to the disturbances in Kurdistan, all available troops had been sent to Van. He also spoke at some length on the difficulties he had to contend with, especially in the valley of the Tchoruk Su, where the Beys had not yet learnt their duties to the Government, and were too apt to take the power into their own hands, while the people, though docile and tractable, were still unable to shake off the influence under which they had been for so long. He lamented greatly the want of roads, bridges, forest guardians, &c., but he said that he could get no permission given him to carry out his recommendations. In the town of Baiburt there are about 475 Armenian families. They possess a very fair school, with about 160 pupils. A reading-room has also been started for the use of the community. In the Caza of Baiburt there are twenty-nine villages in which Armenians are to be found; of these, nine are purely Armenian, the remainder mixed.* The great complaint of the Christians is that they are being perpetually robbed and cannot obtain justice. While I was at Baiburt five men, Turks and Lazi, entered the house of an Armenian, in the village of Belakhor, for purposes of robbery. One Armenian was killed and another wounded. The man who was killed had defended himself only with a stick, because, as he said before his death, he would have been sure to have been punished if he had wounded the robbers. Yussuf Pasha lost no time in securing the offenders and in handing them over to the Tribunals, but here his power ends, and here the cases lag, and will lag, until some means are found to exculpate the robbers; for, from all I could hear, there is but scant justice for the Christians in the Courts of Baiburt. Of this I may give as a proof the following case:—Eight months ago some Christians travelling to Terdjan from Baiburt were attacked on the road by Laz robbers. The Christians defended themselves with stones, the only weapons in their possession, and killed one of them. On their return, the man who had killed the robber in self-defence was put in prison and still remains there. Snow having already fallen on the mountains when I arrived at Baiburt, I followed the caravan-road to Erzeroum. At Panergobun I found M. Cuvelier, a French engineer in the employ of the Government, hard at work struggling, with an insufficient number of inefficient workmen, to repair the numerous bad places in this fast-decaying road. M. Cuvelier understands his work well, and should nothing hinder him will, by the end of next year, not only have repaired that part of the road between Baiburt and Erzeroum, but by the aid of numerous culverts, and in some places by an alteration of the line, which was very badly laid out in the first instance, will have rendered a permanent service to the country. Still, without efficient surveillance the road never can remain long in good order. The principal destruction is in the timbers forming the road-bearers of the bridges, and this is not effected by fair wear and tear, but by the Persian caravan drivers and others, who deliberately pull up one of them whenever they require wood for lighting their camp fires. Between Ghez and Illidja I passed 100 families of Greeks emigrating from Gumush Khaneh to Russia; the terms offered them are houses and land on arrival, and an exemption from all taxes for seven years.

That so rich and beautiful a piece of territory as the valley of the Tchoruk Su should be allowed to remain in such a deplorable condition is sufficient proof, if other were wanting, of the inability of its present rulers to appreciate or turn to account the natural wealth of a country. But that its inhabitants, subjects of the Porte, who have never given one day's trouble to the Sovereign, but who, on the contrary, during the last war, and doubtless during previous campaigns, have aided the Government to the best of their ability and at great pecuniary loss to themselves, should be left to be plundered or burnt

* Statistics of the Armenians in this caza have been taken by Major Trotter, and estimated at 7,073 souls.

out at the pleasure of a ruthless set of brigands, would make it a doubtful question whether its rulers are fit to govern at all. These reflections will probably be those of any one who may have followed the facts narrated in this bare Report. But just in proportion as this account falls short in representing perfectly the desolation and despair reigning at this moment in the valley of the Tehoruk Su, so will a reader be unable to convince himself as deeply as an eye-witness of the great necessity of procuring peace for the unfortunate inhabitants.

During the winter the snow will enforce a season of comparative tranquility. Surely it is to be hoped that before it has passed away some means may be found, if not of utilizing the resources of the country, at all events of procuring tranquility and justice for the people.

(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT, *Major*.

Erzeroum, December 20, 1881.

(Appendix A).—List of Products of the Cazas of Tortum and Ispir.

Products.								Remarks.
Caza.	Place.	Level in feet above the Sea.*	Cereals.	Vegetables.	Fruit.	Timber.	Minerals.	
Tortum ..	Bar	6,547	Wheat, barley ..	Scarce	.. ..	..	Salt, gypsum.	Pine forests in the neighbourhood, wild cypress in the valleys.
	Id	5,142	Indian corn, wheat, and barley	Cucumbers, beans, turnips, carrots, onions, cabbages, beet-roots, vegetable marrows	Apples, pears, plums, mulberries, cherries, apricots, walnuts	Poplar, willow	Salt, gypsum, alabaster	
	Livegyaff ..	5,497	As above ..	As above	Cherries, apples, plums ..	Willow ..	Coal reported in neighbourhood	Pine on some of the mountain spurs.
	Seglee ..	4,900	Indian corn and millet in small quantities	Cucumbers, turnips, onions, pumpkins, tomatoes, capsicums	Mulberries, walnuts, cherries, a few apricots and peaches	Poplar, willow	Salt at Rabat ..	Tomatoes do not ripen, but it is from want of knowledge how to cultivate.
	Vykhyk = Kapist	3,760	Indian corn ..	Tomatoes in profusion, onions, pumpkins, indifferent water-melons	Grapes, peaches, apricots, cornel, pears, apples, cherries, walnuts, medlars, quinces	..	Very large quarries of yellow sandstone	Pine on mountain slopes, and a little wheat and barley.
	Is .. .	3,293	Indian corn ..	Cucumbers, onions, pumpkins	Grapes, pears, and peaches in profusion, cornel, apples, cherries, walnuts, apricots, medlars, quinces	Willow ..	..	Pine on mountain slopes, jujube and fig wild; small quantities of wheat and barley at yaila.
	Euslk ..	4,276	A little wheat and barley	As above	As above, and mulberries ..	..	..	Pine on mountains.
	E s ..	4,216	Wheat and barley at yailas	Cabbages, cucumbers, onions.	Grapes, pears, apples, cherries, mulberries, walnuts, apricots	Pines ..	..	
	Petegrek ..	2,000 (500 ft. above river)	Rice in abundance .	Tomatoes, onions, pumpkins, cucumbers, cabbages, capsicums	Grapes in great profusion, mulberries, walnuts, pears, apples, peaches, apricots	Poplar, willow	Granite	Pine on mountain slopes; hop, pomegranate, and fig growing wild. Tobacco should grow well.
	Tehorgetis .. (western village)	5,090	Wheat and barley in small quantities	Scarce	Apples, pears, plums, cherries, mulberries	Pine ..	Iron	Fruit only found in lower village in valley.
	Zagos ..	5,158	As above ..	Scarce	Apples, pears, plums .	Pine ..	Iron	Oak scrub and young pine.
	Ispir ..	3,858	Wheat and barley in larger quantities	Cucumbers, onions, carrots, pumpkins, cabbages, vegetable marrows	Mulberries, pears, apples, plums	..	Copper and silver in neighbourhood; lignite on Gurmez Dagh	At the village of Kyan both fruit and vegetables grow better than at Ispir.
	Narkiakh ..	4,998	As above ..	Onions, cabbages, tomatoes, pumpkins, cucumbers, capsicums, vegetable marrows	Pears, apples, plums, watermelons	Poplar ..	Copper in the neighbourhood	Vegetables grow better here than at Ispir.

* These levels have been taken either with a Casella hypsometer or with an aneroid checked by the hypsometer, and on the assumption that the height at the British Consulate, Erzeroum, is 6,225 feet above the sea.

(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT, *Major, H. M. Regiment,*
Her Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul, Erzeroum.

Appendix (B).

Number of Armenians in the Caza of Tortum.*

Name of Village.	Gregorians.	Catholics.
Pilkir	120	..
Ekrek	480	..
Yukir Khass	344	..
Kanzatsor	176	..
Khotilk	224	..
Rubat	..	176
Shipek	224	..
Norshen	..	496
Verinkoui	120	..
	1,688	672
Total	2,360	

Number of Armenians in the Caza of Ispir.*

Name of Village.	Gregorians.	Catholics.
Garmerik	..	800
Khodatchor†	..	5,600
Mokhrdort‡	..	800
Arekl	..	120
Zeidgouz	480	..
Gadrashen	240	..
Hounotd	160	..
Segaintchour	320	..
Gisbin	48	..
Nikhakh	240	..
Khozakpoor	160	..
Mezerek	96	..
Vargenz	64	..
Tinhatzor	120	..
Hogha	320	..
Skipot	400	..
Matouzinz	240	..
Kash	80	..
Ekirtsor	120	..
Ispir	80	..
Tchourengoz	160	..
Douzinz	120	..
Sheristanz	..	..
	3,448	7,440
Total	10,988	

Official numbers for the Sandjak of Baiburt.§

Turks and Lazi	46,202
Gregorian Armenians	5,535
Catholic	1,591
Greeks	1,805
Newly-introduced Mussulman refugees	6,000
	61,133

The above statistics, with the exception of the last item, were made out before the war.

(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT, *Major, W. R. Regiment,*
Her Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul, Erzeroum.

* The above statistics have been collected from the testimony of the people as to the number of families in each village. These have afterwards been multiplied by eight.

† Khodatchor comprises the villages of Gijabad, Khandatsor, Ghiask, Shorman, Soniz, Kewort, Harkmorhoot, and Vaina.

‡ Mokhrdort comprises the villages of Buyuk-Mokhrdort, Korkintz, Nurananz, and Akrak.

§ Males only.

Inclosure 3 in No. 14.

Major Everett to Major Trotter.

(No. 27. Confidential.)
Erzeroum, December 21, 1881.

Sir,

IN the Report I have rendered you of Tortum and the valley of the Tchoruk Su I have for obvious reasons omitted to make any allusion either to the new frontier or to the country treated from a military point of view, except once, and that in a very general sense. But the matter has not been neglected. Not only have copious notes been taken, but the whole of the route travelled over has been sketched, together with other lateral communications, a knowledge of which might prove of value. These notes and sketches will be placed at the disposal of Her Majesty's Government at a later date.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

No. 15.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received January 20.)

(No. 18.)
(Telegraphic.)
Constantinople, January 19, 1882.

THE Minister for Foreign Affairs has sent me a confidential message to say that I may count upon a serious step being taken regarding the question of Armenian reforms within twenty days.

No. 16.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received January 23.)

E
(No. 22.)
Constantinople, January 11, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a list of the appointments of some new Governors-General.

I am happy to be able to inform your Lordship that these appointments are of a favourable character, especially those of Kadri and Serri Pashas, while the removal of Hassan Tahsin and Hakki Pasha, respectively Valis of Salonica and Sivas, is very satisfactory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 16.

Extract from "La Turquie" of January 11, 1882.

LES nominations suivantes ont été promulguées hier à la Sublime Porte :—

Son Altesse Cadri Pacha est nommé Gouverneur-Général du Vilayet d'Andrinople ;

Son Excellence Ghalib Pacha, Membre de la Commission Supérieure des Travaux d'Utilité Publique, est nommé Gouverneur-Général du Vilayet de Salonique ;

Son Excellence Youssouf Pacha, Gouverneur-Général par intérim de Trébizonde, est nommé titulaire de ce poste ;

Son Excellence Khalil Rifaat Pacha, Membre de la Commission Supérieure des travaux d'Utilité Publique, est nommé Gouverneur-Général de Siwas ;

Son Excellence Serri Pacha, Gouverneur-Général de Trébizonde, est nommé en la même qualité à Castamuni.

No. 17.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received January 23.)

(No. 23.) *Constantinople, January 12, 1882.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a despatch addressed by Major Everett to Major Trotter respecting the reported return of the Mutessarif of Bayazid to his post, and inclosing a petition from the Armenians of that town against his renomination.

On receiving a telegraphic report from Major Everett as to the rumoured reappointment of the above-named functionary I immediately made inquiries at the Porte, and found that he was not to be sent back to Bayazid, though I fear there is an intention of giving him a post at Erzingam.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 17.

Major Everett to Major Trotter.

(No. 28.) *Erzeroum, December 30, 1881.*

Sir,

HAVING on the 20th December received certain intelligence that the Vali had, by the previous mail, written to the Porte, requesting permission that the Mutessarif of Bayazid might be permitted to return to his post, nothing having been found against him, I immediately informed Her Majesty's Ambassador of the circumstance by telegraph.

In my despatch No. 20 of the 29th October I have made you acquainted with the method adopted by the Vali to carry out the examination ordered by the Porte. It appears that a favourable reply being received from the Vice-Mutessarif, embodied in a document signed by him and the other members of the Idareh Medjliss, including two Armenians of notoriously bad character, the Vali considered that he had done all that was necessary, and, wishing himself to retain the Mutessarif, wrote as I have mentioned above.

Although in the instructions received by the Vali, and presented to the Idareh Medjliss at Erzeroum, it was laid down that the Mutessarif was called here to be examined, no examination whatever has been made. About three weeks ago a petition, of which I inclose a translation, was handed in to the Governor-General by the Armenians of Bayazid, praying that a new Mutessarif might be sent them, but no notice has been taken of it. Such signs as these are sufficient to show that there is no sympathy for the people on the part of the Government, and I greatly fear, unless some exposition of the farce being played can be made in the proper quarter at Constantinople, that the Vali will receive permission to send Ibrahim Effendi back to Bayazid.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 17.

Petition presented by the Armenian Community of the Town of Bayazid to the Governor-General of Erzeroum, dated $\frac{\text{October 30}}{\text{November 11}}$, 1881.

(Translation.)

WE, your servants, all natives of Bayazid, know that we could not show sufficient gratitude for the mercy ever shown to us by the beneficent Ottoman Government: wherefore we consider it our bounden duty ever to pray for the long life and lasting power of our august Master. At the same time, we hope to be allowed to enjoy the same rights and privileges as all other subjects of His Imperial Highness, and in this hope we pray your Excellency to listen to our requests.

We have heard that two petitions expressing satisfaction with the conduct of the Honourable Ibrahim Effendi, Governor of Bayazid, have been addressed to your Excellency, requesting his return from Erzeroum, whither he had been called to undergo an inquiry; but no one of our community knows anything of these petitions, which are

fabricated at the instigation of officials who have attached to them the seals of zaptiehs and others, which they had found at the bottoms of boxes. If there were no motive necessitating his recall to Erzeroum, and which might lead to his punishment, why should there be such haste to procure for him a favourable document from the part of the population.

We are poor and unacquainted with legal procedure, and, moreover, we have not sufficient money to sustain a suit against his unworthy actions, whether at Erzeroum or at Constantinople; and thus we dare not undertake a suit against him before the Tribunals, in order to bring to light all his illegal actions. It suffices that he is unjust and the protector of wicked people; that he never acts according to the laws, but only for his personal interest. If your Excellency would be kind enough to send to Bayazid a Commission of Inquiry, the whole of his conduct, and the opinion held of him, would be known.

We throw ourselves, then, on the mercy of the Government, declaring that if he should return here we should be obliged to come to Erzeroum, and perhaps go as far as Constantinople, at the risk of perishing on the road; and we take the liberty to beg once more from your Excellency, in the name of the mercy of our Emperor, that you will be good enough to choose another person as our Governor.

(30 signatures are appended to the document.)

No. 18.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 33.) *Foreign Office, January 23, 1882.*

My Lord,

HER Majesty's Government have had before them your despatch No. 13, Confidential, of the 10th instant, reporting your conversation with Assim Pasha and Munir Bey on the Armenian question, and the continued delay in carrying out the long-promised reforms.

Her Majesty's Government approve the manner in which your Excellency replied to the explanations offered by these Ministers, as well as the course of action which you propose to pursue in this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 19.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received January 27.)

(No. 28.) *Constantinople, January 17, 1882.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch which I have received from Colonel Sir C. Wilson on the subject of a journey made by him on the Adana plains.

I would beg to draw your Lordship's attention to Sir C. Wilson's remarks as to the interest taken by the Vali in agriculture, and his endeavours to improve the security of his vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 19.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir C. Wilson to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 12.) *Adana, December 31, 1881.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I have recently made a short journey, with Lieutenant Bennet, Royal Engineers, on the Adana plain. I can add nothing to the information which Lieutenant Bennet has already supplied respecting the wonderful richness of the soil of the great Cilician plain, and the field which lies open for all kinds of agricultural pursuits. Much more than half the plain is at present uncultivated, and serves only as a winter pasture-ground for the horses, cattle, sheep, and goats which

are brought to it from all parts of Anatolia. If capital were available, the large area now occupied by marshes and morasses, or liable to inundation, might be drained, and many thousand acres might be brought under cultivation by a simple scheme of drainage. His Excellency the Vali, Abédine Pasha, takes an interest in agriculture; he has lately purchased a large tract of marshy land which he proposes to drain; and he is now in correspondence with an English firm respecting the introduction of steam ploughs, threshing machines, and traction engines into this vilayet. I hope the efforts of the Vali may be successful, but he does not seem to me to have sufficiently estimated the difficulties attending the introduction of complicated steam machinery in a country where the people are extremely ignorant and wedded to an ancient system of cultivation. Various projects are on foot for improving the communications of the vilayet; roads have been commenced, and are now in course of construction, from Tarsus through the Ghulek Boghaz (Cilician Gates), and from Adana to Karatashi; and by orders from Constantinople, a special examination has just been made of the harbour of Ayash, a short distance east of Selefké. In all cases, however, money is wanting to complete the bridges and other works requiring skilled labour; and the present state of the small culverts and bridges on the old chaussée from Mersina to Adana is evidence of the slight care bestowed by Turkish provincial authorities on the repair of roads which have already been completed.

The point to which I would more particularly draw your Excellency's attention is the peculiar character of the inhabitants of the plain, as distinct from the town population. The position of the Cilician plain, lying between the great passes of the Cilician and Syrian Gates (Ghulek Boghaz and Beilan Pass) has at all times exposed it to the ravages of hostile armies advancing northwards to Anatolia or southwards to Syria. One result of this position has been that the original population of the plain has entirely disappeared, and its place has been taken by semi-nomad tribes of Turkish or Kurdish descent, and by a sedentary population from the neighbouring mountains of Syria.

About eighteen years ago many of the tribes were purely nomad, and in open revolt against the Porte. After some hard fighting, they were reduced to submission by Dervisch and Kurd Ismail Pashas, and were settled in villages on the plain. The settlement was effected with the harshness always shown by the Turkish Government when dealing with subjects who have been driven, by ill-treatment, to rebellion. The unfortunate people were not allowed to leave their villages for the summer pasture-grounds in the mountains for five years; numbers sickened and died, and the loss in camels, horses, and live stock was enormous. The tribes which were once strong in numbers, and rich in all that constitutes the wealth of nomads, are now weak and poor. They live by cultivating a few acres of land in the plain, and on the produce of their flocks, which they are now allowed to take to summer pasture-grounds in the mountains. In a few cases they cultivate land in the mountains, in partnership with the Greek and Armenian villagers. The semi-nomad population is composed of Yuruks in the western districts; of Kurds and Serkuntili Turcomans in the centre; and of Djerid, Tejerli, Kiyi, and Bozdoghanli Turcomans in the east. The sedentary population consists of Nusairis or Fellahin, Nogai Tartars, Tchetchen and Absekh Circassians, and a few Armenian and Negro villages. Of these people, the Nusairis, who commenced to emigrate from the Syrian mountains to the plain about 100 years ago, are the best colonists. The climate seems to suit them; they are fairly skilful agriculturists, quiet, sober, and industrious, and their numbers are annually increasing. Unfortunately their peculiar religion raises a barrier between them and their fellow-Moslems, and they are not treated with much consideration by the Local Government.

There appears to be little or no ill-feeling between the Christians and Moslems on the plain. The change which has taken place in this respect may be illustrated by the answer of the Mukhtar of a Kurd village, who was asked how his people got on with the Christians. His reply was "Very well; they are very merciful to us; they lend us money, and do not press us hardly for repayment."

In addition to the ordinary population alluded to above, there is during winter and harvest time a large floating population. The winter visitors come from various parts of Rúm, or Anatolia, where the winter is very severe, and the snow lies long, and they bring with them large droves of horses and cattle, or flocks of sheep and goats. I met during my tour Kurds with hords of Angora goats from Hainmaneh and Chorum in the Angora Vilayet; Karakalpaks and Kurds from the neighbourhood of Kangal, on the Sivas-Kharput road; Gúbartai Circassians from the Uzun Yailas; Avshárs from the Saris Valley; Absekh Circassians from El Bostan, &c. The number of visitors this winter is said to be nearly double that of last year, as numbers of poor people hurried down from the plateau, in consequence of a report spread through Anatolia that the winter was going to be a severe one. There is, at present, hardly room for the live stock which has

been brought down. The people live in cane huts, or "hoos," which are fairly comfortable, and afford sufficient protection, as the weather of the plain is mild, and snow is very rarely seen, and never lies on the ground.

The harvesters, men and women, are principally Kurds and Armenians from Diarbekir, Kharput, Urfa, and sometimes even from Mosul and Bitlis. These people perform the long journey on foot, and after the harvest is finished they return to their homes.

I may add that, in spite of the mixed character of the population, the state of public security on the plain is better than in any other vilayet of Anatolia, excepting perhaps that of Brusa.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

No. 20.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received January 27.)

(No. 29.)
Constantinople, January 17, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch from Colonel Sir C. Wilson, forwarding two interesting Reports from Mr. Assistant Cameron on public education and the procedure in criminal cases at Sivas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 20.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir C. Wilson to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 39.)
Adana, December 31, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith Reports on public education and the procedure in criminal cases at Sivas, which have been prepared by Mr. Assistant Cameron.

Mr. Cameron frequently attended the Criminal Courts at Sivas, and I would beg to draw your Lordship's attention to the complicated nature of the proceedings which he describes, and to the facilities afforded for all kinds of bribery and corruption.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 20.

Mr. Assistant Cameron to Lieutenant-Colonel Sir C. Wilson.

(No. 5.)
Sivas, November 5, 1881.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour of giving you a few details concerning the state of public education in Sivas:—

Sects.	Schools.	Pupils: Boys and Girls.	Teachers.	Subjects taught.
Protestant Armenians ..	1	150 and 100	16	Armenian, English, geography, history, mathematics, physiology.
Turks	25	2,000 and 500?	35	Turkish, Arabic, logic, arithmetic, history, geography.
Gregorian Armenians ..	16	1,300 and 300	40	Armenian, Turkish, French, geography, mathematics, history.
Catholic Armenians ..	1	90	3	Elementary.
Greeks	1	65	3	Ditto.

1. *Protestant Armenians.*—This school is in the hands of six American missionaries, who put an amount of enthusiasm and energy into their work that seems to be quite wanting elsewhere in Sivas. The efficiency of elementary schools ought not to be judged of by the performances of a few selected pupils, so much as by the evident pains taken with the real education of the majority of the children in the lower divisions; and it is for this latter quality that the Protestant school deserves praise. At the same time, their standard of instruction, which is the highest in the town, has had the good effect of arousing competition among the Gregorian Armenians, and of obliging them to open three

new establishments. The Protestant girls' school is altogether without a rival, and many of the leading Gregorian Armenians send their daughters there.

The lesson-books are excellent, being often translations of the best American works, and the only school atlases in the town are to be found here. The ordinary fees for day scholars are 1 piastre per month, while 6 piastres per month include instruction in English and in algebra, which latter seems to be really well taught.

I accompanied Vice-Consul Bennet on a round of visits to several schools, and examined some of the pupils in each.

2. *Turks.*—Every "mahallé" or parish has its mosque and small school, where for a monthly charge of half-a-piastre the children are taught to read and write; there is also religious instruction, and prayers and verses from the Koran are committed to memory. Such is the amount of education which most Moslem children get. From this school promising lads often proceed to the free "Rushdié," where the masters are paid by Government, but receive, as a custom, trifling gifts from the children's parents. On our visit to this place I was much struck by the excellence of the second class. Two or three boys worked sums on the black-board, and one Circassian lad, of about 13 years of age, showed an accurate knowledge of long division of decimals. The first class learns geography, but this, as also amongst the Gregorian Armenians, is a farce, owing to the want of simple maps.

There is also a course of study in Arabic and Turkish grammar, and in logic.

Corporal punishment is inflicted in the Turkish schools, but its use is denied among the Christians.

3. *Gregorian Armenians.*—Most of these schools are elementary, and mixed, for boys and girls. The average monthly fee is 1 piastre, and the instruction is in reading, writing, the simple rules of arithmetic, and in religious exercises.

They are under ecclesiastical supervision, and derive trifling assistance from the National Treasury.

A large school of 150 boys that we visited deserves commendation; the rooms were spacious, well lighted, and airy, the desks and lesson-books were sufficient and satisfactory. It is the best Gregorian Armenian establishment in Sivas, and I believe that pains are really being taken with the scholars. It enjoys some small revenues, and receives a little help from Constantinople.

The charges are low, and many pupils are admitted free. A few head boys have begun French, and are making progress in algebra.

We also visited a private school of ninety pupils, boys and girls, where the fees are from 4 to 8 piastres a-month. Its principal feature was a small gymnasium, where several of the boys are taught to perform very creditably.

4 and 5. *The Roman Catholic Armenians* and the *Greeks*, owing to their small numbers, have but one school each, and that elementary.

In conclusion, I think that the Armenians in Sivas are becoming alive to the importance of public education. They mentioned the interest you had taken in the subject, and invited examination. The places I visited had a business-like and modern air, and most of the teachers had newly come from the capital.

The great matter of regret is that as soon as a lad leaves school he has no opportunity of continuing his education, owing to the rarity of newspapers and the scarcity of books other than ecclesiastical.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DONALD A. CAMERON.

Inclosure 3 in No. 20.

Mr. Assistant Cameron to Lieutenant-Colonel Sir C. Wilson.

Sivas, November 14, 1881.

(No. 7.)

Sir,

I HAVE the honour of giving you some results of my inquiries into the administration of justice in Sivas.

The Law Courts and offices are very conveniently situated, being contiguous, with free communication; the buildings are rickety, and the furniture is wretched, yet order is rigorously maintained and proper respect enforced during a trial. The Courts are moderate-sized rooms, divided off in the middle by a low wooden rail and wicket-gate, on the inner side of which are seats for the Judges and clerks. On Fridays and Sundays the Courts are closed, and of the other five days of the week, Monday and Thursday usually suffice for the public hearing of cases, the Judges sitting from mid-day till sunset.

There are five Courts:—

I. 1. For the Sandjak—First Instance (Civil), Bedayeti-Hukook.
2. " " (Criminal), Bedayeti-Jeza.
II. 3. For the Vilayet—Appeal (Civil), Istinafi-Hukook.
4. " " (Criminal), Istinafi-Jeza.

5. There is also a Commercial Court, practically of little use, for it rarely sits, owing to the absence of purely commercial cases and of foreign litigants. There is a Public Prosecutor (Muddayi-Umoomi) for the vilayet, with Assistants in each of the four Sandjaks of Sivas, Amasia, Tokat, and Kara-Hissar, who attend to their respective First Instance Criminal Courts, prosecuting in cases of "junha" (misdemeanour).

In cases of misdemeanour, when appeal is made from the Sandjak to the Vilayet Court, or in cases of "jinayet" (felony), which are always tried directly in the latter Court, the Assistants have no power, and the Public Prosecutor himself undertakes the prosecution.

From the Vilayet Court a last appeal lies to the "Temyeez" Court in Stamboul.

In criminal cases, the injured party generally draws up a petition, and gives it to the Public Prosecutor. If the supposed crime be a misdemeanour, then the Assistant sends—

(*a.*) An "Iddna-namé," or claim, with an abstract of the charge, to the "Mustantik," or Juge d'Instruction. The "Mustantik" holds an "Istintak" (interrogatory), takes down the depositions of both sides and their witnesses, and sends—

(*b.*) The "Istintak" document to the Assistant, with his own opinion of the case. This opinion of the "Mustantik" is of importance, and is called—

(*c.*) The "Karar-namé," or decision.

If the accused be thought to be innocent, he is often discharged at this stage of the proceedings, sometimes on a nominal bail. But if the "Mustantik" thinks him guilty, the Assistant draws up—

(*d.*) The "Dava-namé," or demand for trial, and sends it to the Sandjak Criminal Court. When the case comes on he attends, and after the introductory reading of documents (*a*), (*c*), and (*d*), he makes verbally a demand for justice. The presiding Judge has the "Istintak" paper (*b*) in front of him, and examines the two parties. Counsel for the defence may not directly cross-examine a witness, but ask the President to put their questions. However, in the Sandjak Criminal Courts, the prisoners are not generally defended.

My presence may or may not have made some difference, but I found the accused to be always treated with a little consideration. The truth is that a prisoner is utterly helpless; there is no public opinion, nor is appeal of much avail; and, as the members of the Court act both as Judge and jury, any bullying of a wretched villager, who has been, perhaps, thrown into gaol on suspicion months before his trial comes on, is quite uncalled for. The accused has the last word. The Court is then cleared, the members deliberate, pass judgment; and their sentence, with an abstract of the case, and reasons for decision, &c., is shortly published as—

(*e.*) An "Eelam."

If the "Mustantik" thinks a crime brought to his notice is not a misdemeanour, but a felony, he sends documents (*b*) and (*c*) direct to the Public Prosecutor, and then in the presence of the latter a "Convicting Committee" is formed, and a Report—

(*f.*) "Heyyeti-ittihamié-mazbatasi," together with—

(*g.*) The "Ittiham-namé," or indictment paper, is written, in which the evidence of the "Istintak" is discussed, and a decision given, with reasons, of guilty or not guilty. The prisoner is then tried in the Vilayet Court, but only documents (*f*) and (*g*) are read aloud, though attention is paid to the "Karar-namé" (*c*).

In either Court an Assistant Judge can always refuse to sign and seal the "Eelam," but such protest is rare, especially if the member is an Armenian nominee of the Vali. Judgment is passed by a majority of votes of the five members.

The Convicting Committee is only formed for deciding on charges of felony, and consists of the members of the Sandjak Criminal Court, so that, if on trial in the Vilayet Court it be found that, contrary to the Committee's opinion, the crime is not a felony, but only a misdemeanour, the case reverts to the Committee members, who now try it, sitting as Judges in the Sandjak Court, after their decision that the felony has been proved. Thus, for misdemeanour, there are two decisions:—

1. Preliminary opinion of the "Mustantik," in "Karar-namé" (*c.*).
2. Sentence of the Sandjak Court.

For felony, there are three decisions:—

1. "Karar-namé" of the "Mustantik."
2. Opinion (*f*) of Sandjak Judges, sitting as a Convicting Committee.
3. Sentence of the Vilayet Court.

The indispensable public trial is often a mere matter of form, as the case, when bribery is not resorted to, is really decided by the Convicting Committee.

In your Report No. 150 of the 29th June, 1880 ("Turkey No. 23, 1880"), you propose the abolition of the "Kara-namé," of the Convicting Committee, and of the Assistant Public Prosecutor.

The proceedings in Court are simple and orderly. The accused is brought in, guarded by zaptiehs, and is seated on a low stool before the open wicket-gate; the accuser sits next to him, and the witnesses are also in the same line. The President puts the oath to a witness as follows:—"Will you, without malice, speak the truth, by God?" and the witness answers "Vallahi" (By God).

The accused's lawyer stays near his client, and there is room for about thirty of the public.

Complaints have been made to me by the Chief Judge at Sivas that he finds it very difficult to bring witnesses to Court on the day fixed for trial, and that this laxness of the police causes a waste of time and an accumulation of cases beyond the power of the Judges to prevent.

The population here are very ignorant of what legal measures they must take; they throw themselves on the mercy of the Public Prosecutor, and have to be led like children to the particular office where a complaint or defence has to be entered in due form. If, moreover, it be remembered that the Criminal and Civil Procedure Codes are quite recent, and that Judges and Public Prosecutors are at times at fault, some idea can be obtained of the confusion that occasionally reigns in the law offices.

The following are a few notes of cases:—

June 24, 1881.—Three Turks, Turkmen Hajji, Kurd Mustafa, and Dulger Mehemet, were held by the Convicting Committee to have violated a Turkish woman, Nisbet. The Vilayet Court however, acquitted all three prisoners in October last, and a few days after, i.e., early in November, Kurd Mustafa murdered an Armenian miller at Tavra, near Sivas, and has not yet been captured.

June 1881.—A Turk (Pertev) broke into a Turkish woman's house at dusk, and carried her off to his own dwelling close at hand; there she was violated by several men, and at dawn taken back to her house. Pertev was imprisoned till September, when the late President, Abdul Ghaffar, before leaving for Broussa, acquitted him.

November 12, 1881.—Hassan, a Circassian kid of Tokat, was charged by the Convicting Committee with having committed burglary. A window had been found open, and foot-prints in the snow traced thence to a barn, where some of the missing property was discovered. No witnesses were called, and the indictment failed in the two essential points: (1) the footprints were measured, and shown not to be those which could be made by Hassan's boots; (2) the barn in question was the daily resort of several grooms in the neighbourhood. Hassan had been seven months in gaol awaiting trial, and begged for mercy, as he was in rags and starving. Sentence was deferred, in order to make further inquiries. The next case was rather similar, and here again the evidence for the prosecution was insufficient. The prisoner denied in Court certain material details stated to have been confessed by him in the "Istantik." No witnesses were called, and sentence was deferred, but the President told me it was certain to be at least three years' imprisonment.

My opportunities for judging of the civil procedure have been limited, as the trials, though public, refer to private cases, and particulars are not always attainable.

The President of the Sandjak Civil Court is an upright Judge, but a fanatic Moslem, who despises all law but the "Sheri," and never for a moment consults the members of his Court before giving judgment.

The Vilayet Appeal Civil Court is a notorious hotbed of corruption, where the public work is in arrears, and no progress can be made in a suit without liberal bribes being given to the President. This functionary has created so much discontent by certain recent and well-known instances of corruption, that a score of villagers who had been summoned as witnesses hooted him as he entered his Court, and called him the enemy of his country and the destroyer of the people.

The lawyers practising in the Sivas Courts are four or five, one being a Turk and the others Armenians, among which the latter is the only one who has received a legal education at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DONALD A. CAMERON.

No. 21.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received January 27.)

(No. 36.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 17, 1882.

IN forwarding Sir Charles Wilson's despatch No. 41 of the 31st December to your Lordship, relative to the affairs of Sivas, it is only necessary for me to observe that I have already reported that the Vali of Sivas has now been sent about his business.

With regard to the dismissal, at my instance, of the Public Prosecutor, Ahmet Shevki Effendi, to which Sir Charles Wilson alludes, and to his reappointment to another office, I have to call your Lordship's attention to my despatch No. 1135 of the 26th ultimo, reporting a conversation on the subject between myself and the Prime Minister, in which the latter explained to me that Ahmet Shevki being the brother of the Minister of Public Works (Hassan Fehmi), although he had succeeded in getting him removed from the Public Prosecutorship, he had not been able to prevent his nomination to another post. Said Pasha added that, when the new Vali was appointed, there might, perhaps, be a better chance of dealing with this man according to his deserts. It is possible, therefore, that an opportunity may now be afforded of getting completely rid of him.

I would further observe, with regard to the denunciations which pour into this Embassy from all Her Majesty's Consuls in regard to the misgovernment and corruption of the Turkish officials, that, in the first place, the charges brought against them, though probably true, are very often difficult to verify, the Consuls themselves generally prefacing their accusations with the formula "it is said;" and, in the second place, their sweeping character renders the task of remonstrance hopeless, except in general terms. If every official was to be dismissed whose misdeeds are signalized, three-fourths of the actual occupants of all the civil posts in European and Asiatic Turkey would have to be cleared out. Your Lordship will have observed that even Abédine Pasha, who at one time was supposed to be such an exemplary Vali, has been lately subjected to some very severe criticism at the hands of Consul Henderson. I may further mention with regard to Abédine Pasha that, at the recent audience I had with the Sultan, His Majesty complained very bitterly of the violent and indiscriminate manner in which Abédine, when acting as Commissioner in Anatolia, had banished and imprisoned such large numbers of Kurdish Chiefs and Notables. The release of these prisoners, which has been gradually going on for many months past, has undoubtedly taken place at the direct instance of His Majesty, with the deliberate intention of conciliating the Kurdish population.

Under these circumstances, the Porte would be powerless to influence the result, and as any remonstrance at the Palace would be useless, I have not thought it advisable, beyond a cursory allusion to the ill effect it was producing, to intervene in the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 21.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir C. Wilson to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 41.)
My Lord, *Adana, December* 31, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to state that I have recently received some information from Sivas which I think is deserving of your Excellency's attention.

In November last Yahya Bey, a Kurd Chief, who was imprisoned about two years ago by Abédine Pasha, was released by the Istinaf (Appeal) Court and pronounced "not guilty," in spite of the testimony of several witnesses against him. I am informed that Yahya Bey told a friend that he had spent £ T. 2,000 in bribing the officials. Of this sum, it is said, the new President of the Criminal Court, Riza Effendi, received 50*l.*; the late Public Prosecutor, Ahmet Shevki Effendi, now Mektubji, 200*l.*; and the Inspector of Justice, a previous Public Prosecutor, and his assistant, also large amounts. Upon the release of the prisoner, the President and members of the Court were thanked by the notorious Mehemet Ali. It is, of course, impossible to prove the bribery which has taken place in this case, but I believe what I have stated is correct.

Yahya Bey is a well-known robber and murderer, who, for several years before his imprisonment, was the scourge of the Tokat district between Sivas and Samsun; and there is, I believe, clear evidence of his having committed more than one atrocious murder with his own hand. Of the numerous murderers, brigands, and robbers arrested by Abédine Pasha whilst Vali of Sivas, not one now remains in prison. None of these

men have been punished, and your Excellency cannot, therefore, be surprised at the present state of the vilayet, as described in my previous despatches and the Reports of Mr. Assistant Cameron.

For these disorders the Vali is primarily responsible, and after him the present Mektubji, late Public Prosecutor, and the Inspector of Justice, who, whilst at Konieh, was well known to have received bribes of even trifling sums.

The recent appointment of the late Public Prosecutor, Ahmet Shevki Effendi, to the important office of Mektubji of the vilayet, has caused great surprise and dissatisfaction. A rumour appears to have reached Sivas that his dismissal from the office of Public Prosecutor was due to your Excellency's representations to the Porte, and his reappointment to high office in the same vilayet is generally looked upon as an open mark of hostility, or disrespect, to the British Government, and as a sign that there is no present intention of carrying out those reforms which have so often been promised and never executed.

I have in a previous despatch (No. 29, Confidential, of the 23rd July, 1881) drawn your Lordship's attention to the maladministration of Hakki Pasha, the Vali, and to the character of the relations and officials with whom he has surrounded himself; under such government it is hopeless to look for improvement.

A few months ago the Porte ordered an inquiry to be made into the accusations against Mehemet Ali and the ring of unprincipled men who have for so many years controlled the affairs of the Sivas Vilayet. The opening of the inquiry was delayed by the intrigues of Mehemet Ali and his associates, and as your Excellency will see from the accompanying letter from Sivas, which gives a clear account of the present state of the case, it is likely to lead to no result. The numerous complaints against Mehemet Ali have been frequently brought to the notice of the Embassy by myself and Lieutenant Cherniside, C.M.G., Royal Engineers. I will, therefore, only add that one of the Moslem complainants Sheikh Ahmet Effendi, is a wealthy man of an old Sivas family, who has a wide reputation for learning, and is much respected by all Moslems from the position which he holds as head of a well-known Tekć at Sivas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 21.

Extract from a Letter dated Sivas, December 7, 1881.

ALL the petitions and "Mahzars" containing charges against Mehemet Ali and his associates forwarded to Constantinople during the last two years have been sent to Sivas, accompanied by two orders, one from the Minister of the Interior, the other from the Minister of Justice, instructing the Public Prosecutor to make inquiry into them and report the result.

Amongst the papers sent, some in the original, others in copies, there are three "Mahzars," one of which was sent from Sivas to the Ministers, the beginning of last year, 1880, bearing the signatures of twenty-eight Turkish and forty Armenian Notables; another, presented to the Porte, is signed by seventy-eight Turkish and ninety-six Armenian Notables; and a third, which is supposed to be the last one prepared by the Armenians, and that which was forwarded in the middle of last year to the Embassy by Lieutenant Cherniside, C.M.G., is certified by the Armenian National Councils. The first two "Mahzars" refer in general terms to the doings of Mehemet Ali and his associates, viz., Alti Parmak Hussein, Sachli, Edhem, and Shemseddin Effendis, bring against them very many vague accusations, and protest against their names being included in the late election list.

The last one, if I remember right, contained some twenty-seven definite charges against Mehemet Ali. Besides these, I am informed that there are two or three Embassy notes sent to the Porte, which call attention to the serious charges brought against these five men, and also in very strong terms allude to the Durlindu Ahmet Kiahya's case (based on Lieutenant Cherniside's Report). There are also some telegrams which the Armenians sent to the Ministers during the late election, reiterating the statements in the previous "Mahzars," and protesting against the election of these men as members, &c.

There is, lastly, a long "Mazbata," drawn up by the Council of State, which, after giving a résumé of the "Mahzars" and telegrams, dwells at length on Ahmet Kiahya's case, and shows the illegal manner in which the Vali is alleged by the Embassy note to have treated the matter and settled it.

The "Mazbata" concludes, my informant says, by instructing the Ministers of the Interior and of Justice to have inquiries made into the charges against Mehemet Ali and his associates, and into Ahmet's case, and to report the result. These papers are said to have reached Sivas some four or five months ago, but the inquiry was only begun early last month. The delay which occurred at the commencement of the inquiry was due, I am told, to the influence of Mehemet Ali and his associates, who thought that if they were allowed some time they could make friends with some of the complainants and threaten others, thus preparing the way for an easy and favourable investigation of the case. Indeed, if all I have heard is true, strenuous efforts have been made, and various intrigues have been set on foot with partial success by Mehemet Ali and his associates, the Public Prosecutor and others, to sow dissension between the Moslem and Christian complainants, to make friends with some of them, and to intimidate others if they come forward.

In spite of this, however, the complainants, with the exception of some Armenians, principally Glyanosian, Bakkalian, Shahinian, Kermezian, Tandirjian, &c., who, I am sorry to say, have from various causes given way to the influence of Mehemet Ali, have kept together, and are determined to take up this case. When about a month ago the Public Prosecutor took up the matter officially, he caused summonses to be sent to Sheikh Hajji Ahmet, the late Mufti, and two or three Armenian priests, to appear before the Juge d'Instruction (Mustantik).

In reply to questions put to them as to their complaints against Mehemet Ali and his associates, they presented a long paper, containing some fifteen or sixteen definite charges, and said that as these charges related to tithe and land questions they must, in order to prove them by documents, demand the production of the necessary papers from the Government archives. The Mustantik, promising to furnish them with the documents required, adjourned the examination.

It is now more than three weeks, I am told, since the promise was made, but the papers have not yet been produced. The prevailing opinion is that, seeing the support which Mehemet Ali more or less receives from almost all the officials, the matter will not be investigated in an impartial spirit, and that the inquiry will not be continued.

Adana, December 31, 1881.

No. 22.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received January 27.)

(No. 37. Confidential.)

Constantinople, January 17, 1882.

My Lord,

ON Saturday last, the 14th instant, I was admitted to an audience by the Sultan. His Majesty received me with great courtesy, and expressed his regret that the multiplicity of his occupations had prevented him from seeing me sooner.

I may here observe, however, that apart from his natural inclination to postpone as long as possible the discussion of a disagreeable subject, His Majesty's real reason for deferring my audience has probably been his desire to await the return of his Emissaries from Berlin.

I commenced the conversation by reminding the Sultan that when I had last seen him he had been good enough to announce his intention of nominating a High Commissioner, with powers sufficiently extensive to put an end to the anarchy and administrative disorganization which unhappily prevail in the eastern districts of Asia Minor; that a month had been named as the term within which the nomination was to take place, but that four months had now elapsed without anything of the kind having been done; that Her Majesty's Government, who had instructed me to express to His Majesty at the time their satisfaction with the decision arrived at, were naturally surprised at not hearing from me further on the subject; and that, consequently, I had ventured to ask for an audience with the view of ascertaining how the matter actually stood, more especially as recently it had been currently reported that a high functionary of State had been actually offered the post.

His Majesty, in reply, favoured me with a very complete, and, I must admit, a very able exposition of his views. He began by admitting that he had made me the promise to which I had referred, but that, when he came to consider how it might be executed, great difficulties had declared themselves—in the first place in regard to the personality of the statesman to be selected, and in the next as to the instructions with which he was to be furnished. Several names had been submitted to him by his Ministers, but upon examination no individual had been suggested who possessed all the neces-

savy qualifications. But the elaboration of a High Commissioner's instructions had proved a still more arduous task. It must be remembered that this question of the internal reforms demanded was of a far more complicated nature than the other problems with which he had been called upon to deal. The Treaty of Berlin had required him to constitute autonomous provinces and to surrender territory. However painful these sacrifices might have been, the results involved were simple, definite, and readily appreciated. It was like losing a limb. However cruel the operation, you knew its exact consequences. You summoned up your courage, the thing was done, and there you were; but the reforms referred to in the LXIst Article of the Treaty of Berlin really implied the administrative reorganization of a very considerable area of his Asiatic Dominions. Now, the determination of what were the principles of government best adapted to a country was a matter of infinite moment. European States were themselves divided upon the point. Some countries adopted the system of centralization, others of decentralization. In fact, there were several paths to be followed, but, unfortunately, in a matter of the kind, if you took a wrong turning the consequences were disastrous and irretrievable. Consequently, he must not be blamed if he desired to deliberate long and carefully on the steps he was about to take. The new judicial system recently introduced into the Empire was an exemplification of his meaning. The Code Napoleon had been adopted almost in its entirety. Everybody admitted that the Code Napoleon, in the abstract, was an excellent system, and was working well in France, but in Turkey it had almost completely broken down, through the inefficiency of the persons who administered it. Sometimes complaints came to him of a certain Procureur-Général, who, having failed to give satisfaction to the people within his jurisdiction, was dismissed. Soon after, however, he would hear of his reappointment to a similar post elsewhere, and when he asked his Minister of Justice the reason of such an undesirable arrangement, he was told that the choice of persons at all fitted for the office was so limited, that no other course was open. "But," continued His Majesty, "though I thus plead for delay and time, I again assure you, as the Sovereign of the country, in the most definite and absolute manner, that I intend to discharge the obligations imposed upon me, and that I am quite determined to execute the reforms specified. My Ministers, for some time past, have been seriously occupied with the matter, and in due course a satisfactory solution will be given to the question. As soon as the intended Règlement is elaborated, a High Commissioner will be appointed to superintend its application, which will be better than sending one at once with a roving commission and indefinite instructions. Half-a-dozen of such Commissioners have been sent off from time to time, and no practical good has ever come of it. Some have done too little, and some, like Abédine Pasha, who imprisoned scores of people" (an allusion to the Kurdish Aghas, whom the Sultan has recently released) "without any discrimination, have done too much."

In reply, I thanked His Majesty for the frank way in which he had expressed his views. I said that I should be the first to subscribe to their wisdom and justice. Indeed, it was in the conviction that it would not be desirable to hustle the Turkish Government into any premature decision upon so important a point, that my colleagues and myself had suggested the dispatch of a High Commissioner to the disturbed districts as a provisional measure, in order that ample time might be given for the elaboration of a well digested scheme of reform, without His Majesty or his advisers being harassed during the interval by the consciousness that while they were deliberating thousands of human beings were living in daily fear for their lives, and were being continually subjected to every kind of cruelty and oppression. It was true that at this moment the snows of Kurdistan had produced a cessation in the misfortunes of its inhabitants, but with the return of summer the outrages and horrors of the past year would be sure to repeat themselves. Consequently, in transmitting His Majesty's views to my Government, which I should endeavour to do with the utmost fidelity, I would venture to suggest that it might be desirable that he should deign to name some term within which the task upon which he stated he was engaged would be terminated, and the new régime be ready for promulgation.

The Sultan answered that he intended to take immediate police measures to put a stop to the outrages of which I complained; but that with regard to the reforms, he was afraid that in so complicated an affair it would be impossible to name any definite term such as I had indicated. I observed that I was sorry this should be the case, for I must remind His Majesty that English public opinion was much interested in this question; that, when Parliament met, a great number of influential persons, who took a deep concern in the welfare of the Christian and Armenian subjects of the Porte, would question Her Majesty's Government very keenly as to what was being

done; at the same time, that they would scan, with no very indulgent eye, the various stages through which the question had passed during the last six months; and that I feared that the absence of all precision and definiteness from the exposition of His Majesty's intentions would impress not only them, but my Government, unfavourably, and might in the end render the relations between the two countries less cordial than might be desired.

On this His Majesty exclaimed, with some vivacity, "But what can I say to you more express and definite than that which I have already said, namely, that I am perfectly determined to keep my word and to do what is required. I, the Sovereign of this country, tell you that I intend to carry out the programme which my Government voluntarily communicated to Europe in its note of the 3rd October. Let the English Government have patience and show confidence in me, and they will be satisfied."

This concluded the serious part of my interview, and His Majesty then turned to other topics of no public interest.

The impression made upon my mind by the foregoing conversation has been anything but satisfactory. The way in which His Majesty referred to his broken promise in regard to the appointment of a Commissioner was by no means reassuring, for although he condescended to allege certain reasons for having failed to fulfil it, it evidently did not occur to him that there had been any breach of faith in the matter, or that his conduct had been unusual in allowing so many months to pass without acquainting the Ambassadors with the change in his intentions. His assurances with regard to the future, though sufficiently earnest, were very indefinite. On the other hand, the plan he described of first elaborating the reforms, and then appointing a High Commissioner to superintend their application, is not devoid of unreasonableness, if only we could believe in the sincerity of his intentions.

Of course, had it been desirable to do so, I should have felt myself entitled, under the circumstances, to have adopted a harsher tone, and to have used more energetic language, but I purposely kept the conversation running at a low pressure, for if we are to place our sole reliance upon persuasion and the exhibition of those arguments by which reasonable men are guided, I thought it would be useless to irritate the person upon whose fiat everything depends. I let fall, however, one expression towards the close of the interview which I knew would not fail of producing a certain effect, but otherwise nothing passed which could provoke His Majesty to run counter to the wishes of Her Majesty's Government from a feeling of wounded dignity, or as a consequence of an ill-timed importunity upon my part. Indeed, when I took my leave His Majesty was good enough to express his sense of the courteous manner in which I had discharged my task, which he accompanied by a very gracious intimation of his personal regard.

I still think it would be advisable for me to continue the prosecution of my efforts in the same spirit for another two or three months, in order that ample time and opportunities may be given to the Turkish Government to show what are their real intentions. If, however, before the spring some satisfactory results have not been obtained, it will, I am afraid, be necessary for Her Majesty's Government, if it wishes to secure anything like security and protection for the Armenians and the other Christian subjects of the Porte in Asia, to devise some effectual means for compelling the Sultan and his advisers to execute their Treaty obligations. Until, however, I receive your Lordship's instructions to that effect, I propose to refrain from using any minatory expressions, as retreat is difficult from a position of which threats and strong language are the basis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 23.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 19.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, January* 30, 1882.

I HAVE received with satisfaction the announcement contained in the reports from Beyrout forwarded in your Excellency's despatch No. 1139 of the 30th ult., that the perpetrators of the outrage committed on the Protestant school at Nazareth

have been imprisoned by order of the new Kaimakam, who appears to be an energetic and impartial official.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 24.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 50.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, January* 30, 1882.

IN your despatch No. 18 of the 11th inst., your Excellency incloses a Report by Major Everett on Tortum and the Valley of Tehorah Sa. I have to request that you will convey to that officer my approval of the manner in which his Report is drawn up.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 25.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 52.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, January* 31, 1882.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 23 of the 12th instant, stating that, in consequence of a telegraphic report from Major Everett that the Mutessarif of Bayazid was expected to return to his post, you had made inquiries on the subject at the Porte and found that the report was unfounded; and I have to acquaint your Excellency that your action in this matter is approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 26.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received February 2.)

(No. 39.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 21, 1882.

WITH reference to my despatch to your Lordship No. 1018 of the 17th November last, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Angora, stating that Halil Agha, the gendarmerie officer mentioned in the Report of Mr. Gatheral which my above despatch inclosed, and whose conduct I brought to the notice of the Sublime Porte, has been convicted and imprisoned.

Mr. Gatheral's despatch also gives information concerning the critical state of the Governor-General's health, and respecting the officials who are likely to succeed him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 26.

Vice-Consul Gatheral to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 133.)
My Lord, *Angora, January* 13, 1882.

I BEG to inform you that the Governor-General of this province, Khoorshid Pasha, is in a most critical state of health, and his death is daily expected. He is 86 years of age, has long been a martyr to chronic rheumatism, and which is now complicated with several other disorders. Although confined to bed, he still makes a heroic effort to continue his administration, and although long fainting fits and frequent attacks of delirium intervene, the moment he feels somewhat relieved he takes pen in hand and resumes his work. In this weak and bewildered state of mind and body he becomes the centre of a thousand local intrigues; and officials who,

under his ordinary rule, dared scarcely show themselves, again find an opportunity of engaging in affairs.

For three years Khoorshid Pasha has ruled this province with considerable rigour but with marked ability, and his administration would have been a success but for the perpetual plague of locusts which has traversed all his plans. He has been hard-working, resolute, and fairly honest, and would have reformed many abuses if the Central Authority had only allowed him.

As it is probable that a successor must shortly be appointed, I may mention, for your Lordship's information, that a former Vali of this province, Haider Effendi, at present *en disponibilité*, was promised a reappointment here the first time the post was vacant. Being an enlightened official, of European culture and education, a gentlemen in every sense of the word, he has all the qualifications that would make his services invaluable to the province in its present deplorable condition. It is currently reported and believed here that Hassem Pasha, the President of Famine Commission and General Commanding, holds in readiness a secret Bérat of appointment as Vali, ready for production in case of Khoorshid Pasha's demise. He also is a hard-working, active official, and though very easily influenced and guided by others, would, no doubt, make great efforts to save the province from the utter ruin that threatens it.

Referring to the last paragraph of my despatch No. 120 of the 28th October, 1881, I have much pleasure in informing your Lordship that the officer Halil Agha, mentioned therein, has, owing to your Lordship's representations to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister for the Interior, on their orders been brought here, tried and convicted on the charges brought against him. He has been publicly degraded from his military rank and sentenced to imprisonment for seven months. It is so rare that a culprit of this magnitude is brought to justice and convicted, instead of being promoted and rewarded, that I would beg permission to congratulate your Lordship on the success of this case.

Very painful accounts continue to be received from the Istanos and Ayash districts. Deaths from cold and starvation now average eight to ten daily, and continue increasing. I have taken measures to have regular statistics compiled, containing details of each case, and have them certified by local authority or well-known residents in each place, as, in making urgent representations to the vilayet authorities to adopt some measures of relief, I am always encountered by the stereotyped reply that they have no official information on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GAVIN GATHERAL.

No. 27.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received February 2.)

(No. 43.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 23, 1882.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 23 of the 12th instant, I have the honour to acquaint your Lordship that the Prime Minister has informed me that the new new Mutessarif of Erzinghian is not the present Mutessarif of Bayazid, but a man who filled that post some years ago. His Highness added that Ibrahim Effendi is still under trial at Erzeroum, and that as, from information received, he appears unable to justify himself, he will probably, at the conclusion of the trial, be relieved of his functions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 28.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 60.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, February* 6, 1882.

HER Majesty's Government have had before them your despatch No. 37, Confidential, of the 17th ultimo, containing an account of your audience of the Sultan on the subject of the reforms to be introduced into Asia Minor; and I have to express to your Excellency

their approval of the language in which you replied to His Majesty's explanations of the delay in carrying out his instructions in this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 29.

Earl Granville to the Earl Dufferin.

(No. 61.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, February 6, 1882.*

I HAVE learnt with satisfaction from Mr. Gatheral's Report inclosed in your Excellency's despatch No. 39 of the 21st ultimo, that your representations to the Porte as to the misconduct of Hallil Agha have led to his conviction and imprisonment.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 30.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received February 9, 6·45 P.M.)

(No. 27.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February 9, 1882, 5 P.M.*

THE Sultan's Secretary has told me, confidentially, that a Commissioner would certainly very shortly be appointed for Armenia.

No. 31.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received February 10.)

(No. 50.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 27, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond reporting on the emigration of the Laz population from Batoum and the Province of Trebizond.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 31.

Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 1.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, January 5, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the steam-transport "Médjidié" called here on the 1st instant, on her way from Batoum to Constantinople, with 1,200 Laz emigrants on board, 400 of whom were to be landed at Samsoon, and the remainder at Synope and Moudania.

There still seems to be at Batoum a number of Lazes who are willing to emigrate, and have applied to the Porte for means of transport. Steamers have been promised to be sent, but as they do not make their appearance, and the final period fixed for the exodus is nearing its end, from thirty to forty families of those who can afford to pay embark on board each postal steamer bound for Constantinople.

I hear from Batoum that a number of Boys who had accepted pensions from the Russian Government are also willing to depart, but that permission will not be granted to them unless they refund the sums which they have respectively received, a restitution which they do not seem to have the means to make.

The number of Lazes who originally settled in this province is now greatly reduced, owing to their having removed to other vilayets on the sea-shore as well as inland. According to a Return furnished to me by Tchoorooksooli Ali Pasha, they amounted six months back to 6,193 families and 37,108 souls, while the official census lately taken gives only 4,876 families and 23,094 souls.

As since the date of Ali Pasha's return, at least 600 families of Laz refugees were landed in this province; the number of those who removed elsewhere is upwards of 2,000 families, or 12,000 souls.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 32.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received February 10.)

(No. 62.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 31, 1882.*

YESTERDAY, in conversation with Mr. Wyndham, Assim Pasha reasserted the anxiety of the Porte to settle the question of Armenian reforms. He accounted for the delays which have taken place pretty much in the same language as that adopted by the Sultan, as reported to your Lordship in my despatch No. 37 of the 17th instant. He also enlarged upon the difficulty of effecting any reforms in the local administration of the provinces while the finances were disorganized, and there were no funds to pay either the officers of the law, the civil officials, or the police.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 33.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received February 10.)

(No. 64.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 31, 1882.*

SAID PASHA informed Mr. Wyndham yesterday that the question connected with the recent appointment of the ex-Procureur of Siwas as Mektoubje of the same vilayet was under the consideration of the Government, and that endeavours were still being made to find a suitable person to fill the office of Kaimakam of Marash.

The Vali of Siwas, as I have previously reported to your Lordship, has been already dismissed.

I have been again pressing for the dismissal of the Vali of Diarbekir, but the case of this latter official seems to be hung up at the Palace.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 34.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received February 12.)

(No. 67.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 31, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond describing the general state of disorder that prevails in that town.

Mr. Biliotti attributes this state of things to the culpable lenity shown by the Courts of Justice to certain young Boys, who, by their lawless conduct and by the impunity which they enjoy, have for some time past kept the town in a state of insecurity, and become the terror of all the peaceful inhabitants.

Her Majesty's Consul, as your Lordship will perceive, has remonstrated with the Governor-General on this subject; but his Excellency appears to have observed that, as long as the Courts of Justice refused to inflict condign punishment on the offenders, he himself could do nothing.

I have briefly communicated the substance of Mr. Biliotti's despatch to Assim Pasha, who remarked that he did not think it possible that there could be any Boys at Trebizond of sufficient importance and influence to command the favour of the Tribunals. His Excellency, however, made a note of the case, and stated that he would write to the authorities of Trebizond on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 34.

Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 2.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, January* 9, 1882.

THE Courts of Justice at Trebizond have lately treated with so much lenity a young Bey who is the dread of the quiet portion of the population, and who dangerously stabbed a Greek, that they be held responsible for the disturbances which he, as well as a few others of his class, are since causing in this town.

The case is this. About a month ago the Bey in question met in the evening, outside a café, a young Greek against whom he had a grudge, and who, like himself, was armed. They exchanged high words, and the people sitting in the café saw the flash of a cutlass, heard a cry, saw the Bey running away, and the Greek unsheathing his dagger, making a few steps, and falling down. He was profusely bleeding from a deep cut on the shoulder. The wound is so dangerous that the surgeons, fearing an hæmorrhage which would carry off the patient, did not attempt to look at it after the first dressing. The Greek is still in bed, but progressing favourably.

The Bey was apprehended, and lodged in special rooms which, it would seem, are reserved for criminals belonging to the high class; but shortly after, having been released, he threatened to kill any one giving information against him, and, as he is believed to be as good as his word, no witness could be found. There the matter stands at present.

I must here point out that this is not the first time that the Bey in question inflicted wounds endangering life. I had occasion, in my despatch No. 19 of the 29th May, 1880, to speak of a similar case of serious stabbing of which he was the author, and which was followed by identical lenity on the part of the Courts of Justice.

A few days after his release the Bey in question entered the shop let by him to a Greek, and, as he was unable to pay down at once the rent, which he promised for next day, he gave him a sound thrashing; and, of course, the victim did not venture to lodge a complaint.

Encouraged by the example, a few other young Beys, who enjoy no better reputation than the one I have spoken of, are since troubling the public peace with impunity.

One of them levied black-mail from a tavern-keeper. Another, entering a café where a juggler was performing, ordered him, under threat of death, to leave the place at once, and upwards of 100 people who were there quietly spending their evening were compelled to submit to the will of an intruder, and also to prevent him to carry out his threat. A third attacked, a few nights back, passers-by in the streets, calling out that he would like to see whether the Government could prevent him to act as he did.

The police never interfere with these young Beys, who are known drunkards, always armed to the teeth, and ready to unsheath their cutlasses or draw their revolvers. Their victims do not dare to complain, and if they did, no punishment would be inflicted on them by the Courts of Justice.

I called the attention of Yussuf Pasha to this state of things, which he deprecates, but to which he says there is no remedy so long as the Courts of Justice do not inflict exemplary punishment, and he agrees with me in thinking that the Judges themselves are afraid to incur the wrath of the young Beys in question. It may therefore be said that they are the masters of the town of Trebizond.

A case, but of quite a different nature, has lately taken place, which serves to completely illustrate the little security which exists in this town.

A few months back a Greek of Santa carried off and married a girl of his co-religionists aged 13. She was recovered by her relatives and sent to Batoum, from whence she was brought back by the Greek Archbishop at the request of the man, who claimed her as his lawful wife. The decision of the Ecclesiastical Court being against the plaintiff, he appealed to the Patriarchate, and an order came for the revisal of certain circumstances of the case. But the Greek in question instead of appearing in order to give further explanations, came in broad daylight in a boat with eight armed Turks, and carried off his presumed bride from the Greek communal school which she attended, and which is situated at a few steps from the Métropole and the French Consulate. The Turks had at first carried off by mistake another girl, whom they brought back, and broke open the door of the school leading to the sea-

shore to make off with their prize. On the Greek Archbishop bringing the matter to the notice of the Governor-General, two sowaris (mounted zaptiehs) were sent after the band, and they returned with the information that they had landed at Turmenah, and were on their way to Santa. But the girl was not recovered, though three or four sowaris were dispatched to that place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 35.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received February 20.)

(No. 85.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 10, 1882.

FROM Mr. Consul Biliotti's despatch No. 1 of the 5th ultimo, which I had the honour to inclose in my despatch No. 50 of the 27th ultimo, your Lordship will have learnt the miserable condition of the Lazes inhabiting the territories ceded to Russia round Batoum.

I am informed that the delay granted to them by the Russian Government for coming to a decision as to whether they would emigrate or not, will expire on the 14th of this month, so that those who decide on emigrating will have to start at once.

There is apparently no doubt that the greater part of these families are anxious to leave their native country, and if they are forced to do so at this time of the year, when the cold is very great, and when both money and arrangements are wanting for their maintenance and accommodation, their condition will be one of great suffering and distress. Assim Pasha has, therefore, begged me to convey these facts to your Lordship, and to say that it would be much in the interests of humanity if Her Majesty's Government would make some friendly representations to the Russian Government with a view to obtaining an extension of the delay in question up to May or June next, when the weather would be more favourable for the contemplated movement, and by which time proper arrangements could be made for the reception of the emigrants.

I have already addressed your Lordship by telegraph on this subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 36.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received February 20.)

(No. 94. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 11, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copies of despatches which I have received from Major Everett, reporting on certain preparations that he states are being made at Erzeroum for an Armenian insurrection.

In thanking Major Everett for these interesting communications, I have requested him to continue to report whatever may come to his knowledge. I have further informed him that I do not see that there is any necessity for him to make any communication to the Local Government, but that he should lose no opportunity of impressing upon his Armenian acquaintances that there could be no greater mistake than for the Armenians to enter upon any such ill-considered courses.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 36.

Major Everett to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 1. Confidential.)

Erzeroum, January 3, 1882.

My Lord

I HAVE the honour to forward you herewith a copy, translation, and *facsimile*, of a paper which I believe to be widely circulated in Erzeroum and, for aught I know to the contrary, all over the vilayet among the Armenians. The original was only in my hands for a few minutes, when I made the tracing from which the *facsimile* now forwarded is drawn, and was one of two belonging to a young man of the Protestant community. He lost them by accident, and before they were returned one was shown to me. The one I did not see was filled in, with the exception that the giver of the oath had not signed his name.

With regard to the method of distribution I can only give your Excellency as much information as was given to the man who received the paper. A short time ago a Gregorian Armenian, an artisan of the town, came to him and spoke on the matter Gradually gaining him over to the cause he at length persuaded him to take the oath. The Gregorian then informed him that he was his lieutenant, and handing him over ten other papers, he told him to find ten men to take them up. Of these ten papers the young man has already distributed six. These men as it were belong to him, he acting over them as a species of non-commissioned officer, from whom alone they will receive instructions, and with whom alone they are acquainted. In like manner the lieutenant, though aware of the existence of many captains, is only acquainted with his own. Similarly the captain knows but one major, and the whole are kept in entire ignorance of the leaders of the movement. In fact, the system of distribution is designed so that in case of betrayal the fewest possible number should be implicated. It is known, however, that there is in Erzeroum a "mushir," or general officer, and further, that the movement is not confined to the city. The Catholics are not admitted into the league, but several Protestants, consequent on a late order, have recently been accepted. This is all the information that I can give your Excellency at present, but it is enough to prove that, notwithstanding the apparent tranquillity of the people. There is on foot a movement of a revolutionary character.

Every man who signs this paper is the sworn soldier of a league whose object is the freedom of the country, and it shows clearly (as I have long ago predicted, see my despatch No. 19, Political, Confidential, of the 25th June, 1880, addressed to Major Trotter) that the Armenians have no intention of abiding by the decision of Europe unless the reforms introduced should be of such a radical nature as to materially alter their position in the country.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 36.

Copy and Translation of an Enlistment Paper in circulation among the Armenians in Erzeroum.

Yertuakir.

ZORR (the first letter only given).

GURYERTNUM anun amem Sourp Yerortutian Yeo hadvins verar vor askis azadutian ama amenain Chanook askhadil yev i bahanchel nargin imansus cherkhenaiel te sujun eokhdis bardzaus linim partznakorin joqhorun inghiankus ashkharres parnalu iragunk ounem.

(Usderakurutyun.)

188 .

Durikh . Ahest .

Shuga . Tiv . Tagh .

(Yertmnasusitch.)

(Translation.)

Form of Oath.

SOLDIER.

I SWEAR in the name of the Most Holy Trinity, and on my honour, that I will do all I can for my nation's freedom, and, if it is necessary, that I will not spare myself. If I fail in my duty to fulfil this promise the highest congregation has the authority to cut my life from this world.

(Signature.)

188 .

Age . Trade or calling .

Market . Number . Quarter .

(The giver of the oath.)

Inclosure 3 in No. 36.

Major Everett to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 3. Political. Confidential.)

Erzeroum, January 20, 1882.

My Lord,

I HARDLY expected to be able so soon to forward you further information concerning the Armenian national movement, but I have now the honour to enclose herewith the *facsimile*, copy, and translation of another paper issued by the Secret Committee, which throws further light on the method of recruiting, and on the length of time during which the movement has been on foot. From the allusion made in this document to the receipt of a written oath, it seems that the first papér which I forwarded you is returned, when signed, to the Committee, and this second one is given in exchange. Such a course is a very natural one, and, indeed, necessary to the success of such an undertaking, since it precludes the possibility of a man tearing up his paper and pleading the non-receipt of it when the moment for action arrives.

This paper, you will observe, is much better work than the other. The printing is clearer, the ornament more elaborate. Nothing so good being possible at Erzeroum, it is evidently an importation. From certain peculiarities in the shape of the letters I believe it to have emanated from Russian Armenia, and from certain similarities in the drawing, I am sure that both papers are the work of the same artist. The emblems on the shield are an eagle holding a lamb in its talons, a lion, a ram's head, and a winged dragon. The first three are well-known Armenian emblems; I am not aware that the last has any connection with the country. In the circle forming the escutcheon of pretence is a representation of an ark resting on the top of Ararat.

The most interesting portion of the whole is the date, of which three figures alone are given, but which was filled up in the original from which I took the tracing for the year 4374. We are now in 4375, and August will be the first month of 4376. Since the date of the affidavit is also given in the original as the 30th November, it is clear that this particular paper was issued between December 1880 and August 1881. It is important to note this, because it shows that the movement is not a new one, consequent on discontent at the delay of reform since the settlement of the Greek question, but one of long standing, while the first paper I forwarded your Excellency being of recent issue proves that new adherents are still being enlisted.

The initials "B. H." are not known to me at present; but if they are not fictitious I shall probably get at the name before very long.

Any lengthened stay in this country naturally makes me suspicious, and it immediately occurred to me that there was just the possibility of these papers being put into my hands purposely, in the hope that by my forwarding them to your Excellency they might act as a stimulus to the question of reform. I am, however, satisfied that such is not the case. This second paper was one filled up in the name of an Armenian Gregorian, and my informant is not aware that I know of the existence of any other paper. That this second one should have come to light so soon after the other is, therefore, simply a coincidence.

This informant tells me that there is a third paper in circulation with directions concerning uniform and arms, but he hardly hopes to be able to get at it. He also says that papers like the present are widely distributed among the Armenians in the city, and that the bearers have been informed that they will receive important instructions in the month of March.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

Inclosure 4 in No. 36.

Copy and Translation of a Paper in circulation among the Armenians in Erzeroum.

On the scroll:—"Kidzir vor gepergevis."

Hanznouraz Yekhpair,

TZER asdorakrutiamp tavaganav Yertmanakirucat arr mez hassav yev uzkez dasnabedi hovanavorutynn nerkev devink Yertmanet hamemad joovis gomen dasnabedit meetchosav Kaladz harahankeen cordsaterelveen hoke yev chaket tchee beedee Khanaies kidzir vor kou Kordzarrdnutyan hammatsine kez badeev yev budcaj gu dunoreenvi.

Naiyev gastararemk uzkez hokoud ungarutianis inch hor-hclou leenees noueen gedeen dasnabedeed gerhawortes vor na arn mez deregarkereh.

Poon tavagances Haiotz

.... 437 ....

Korzateer Akhda Khump,
B. H.

(Translation.)

On the scroll:—"Know that you are being saved."

Self-sacrificing Brother,

THE affidavit dated with your signature has reached us, and, on the part of the Committee and according to your oath, we have received you under the charge of a commander of ten ("oubashi"). You will not spare either care or effort to carry out the instructions which will be ordered and which will be communicated to you by your commander of ten. Know that, according to your work, honour or punishment is being meted out to you.

And further we instruct you to communicate to your commander of ten any thought that may occur to you as being of advantage to this Society in order that he may notify the same to us.

The exact Armenian epoch

.... 437 ....

The Executive Officer of the sworn Fraternity,
B. H.

No. 37.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received February 20.)

E
(No. 102.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February 14, 1882.*

IN my despatch No. 861 of the 4th October last, I had the honour to inform your Lordship that the scheme of reforms for Armenia, drawn up by Sir Charles Wilson and Major Trotter, had been referred by our colleagues to the Russian Ambassador and myself for revision.

In consequence of M. Novikoff's many preoccupations in connection with the indemnity question, a considerable time elapsed before we were able to take the matter in hand, but as soon as he was at liberty, we went through the original scheme paragraph by paragraph, and introduced such alterations as the circumstances seemed to require

I now inclose the original project and the modified text in parallel columns, with the alterations in italic.

Paragraph No. 3. One Commissioner has been substituted for two, as originally recommended by Sir Charles Wilson and Major Trotter. The reason for this alteration I have already explained, and it has received your Lordship's approval.

Paragraph No. 4. The change in this paragraph is rather in the wording than in the sense. The new reading accentuates a little more forcibly the desirability of so arranging the administrative circumscriptions as that the groups of population which they contain should be as homogeneous as possible.

Paragraph No. 5. The original project suggested that the Governors of the province should be named for a period of five years. We have rendered this term less definite, our colleagues being strongly of opinion that if a fixed period was named, it might hereafter

provide the Porte with an excuse for refusing to cashier a Vali whose dismissal it might be found necessary to demand.

Paragraph No. 7. In this paragraph, which maintains the principle that a certain proportion of the revenues derived from the province should be applied to local expenditure, a saving clause has been introduced with regard to those revenues which have been specially hypothecated. This restriction is merely a repetition of the similar one introduced into the note of the Powers of the 7th October.

Paragraph No. 11. In this paragraph the composition of the gendarmerie and the sources from which it is to be recruited are more strictly defined than in the original text. It maintains the principle of the police being recruited from the rural population.

I cannot conclude this despatch without paying a tribute to the loyal, conscientious and conciliatory manner in which M. Novikoff has entered with me into the examination of the British Consular project. I am sure I may count upon your Lordship's approval in my having considered his valuable suggestions in a similar spirit.

On Thursday the 9th instant, M. Novikoff and I took an opportunity of the Ambassadors meeting in conference to submit to their consideration the foregoing changes; and I am happy to be able to announce to your Lordship that they have been unanimously assented to by our colleagues.

Although these projected reforms (which may now be said to have received the sanction of Europe) cannot be considered as possessing either an heroic or radical character, they would, I believe, be found sufficient, if honestly applied, to ameliorate to a considerable extent the present unhappy condition of the populations for whom they are designed. Life and property would become secure; justice would be duly administered; the ravages of the predatory populations would be suppressed; industry would be encouraged; an opportunity would be given for the development of the resources of rich and bountiful areas, and for the accumulation of wealth in the hands of a frugal and laborious population, the ruinous drain upon the provincial Treasuries would be arrested, the authority and prestige of the Imperial Government would be vindicated and enhanced; and the affections and interests of an intelligent, numerous and powerful section of the Sultan's subjects, now dismayed and alienated, would become inextricably interwoven with the prosperity, fortunes, and advancement of the Ottoman Empire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 37.

Memorandum on the Reforms to be inaugurated in the Countries inhabited by the Armenians.

Projet Primitif de MM. Wilson et Trotter.

1. NOUS pensons qu'il serait désirable et possible d'introduire dans les pays habités par les Arméniens les réformes ci-après énumérées.

2. On peut dire en termes généraux que ce pays comprend les Vilayets d'Erzéroum, Van, Bitlis, Hakkiari, Kharpout, Dersin, et Diarbékir, avec l'exception, peut-être, dans ce dernier vilayet, du Sandjak de Malatia; les Sandjaks de Sivas, Kara-Hissar, et Tokat dans le Vilayet de Sivas; le Sandjak de Marash, dans le Vilayet d'Alep, et une partie du Sandjak de Sis, dans le Vilayet d'Adana.

3. Deux Hauts Commissaires devraient être nommés, avec l'approbation des Puissances, pour un terme d'au moins trois ans pour surveiller l'introduction des réformes. Ils devraient recevoir des pleins pouvoirs exécutifs, y compris la faculté, sous certaines réserves, de renvoyer les employés corrompus ou incapables jusqu'au rang y compris du Mutessarif.

L'un de ces Hauts Commissaires aurait

Texte Modifié.

1. NOUS pensons qu'il serait désirable et possible d'introduire dans les pays habités par les Arméniens les réformes ci-après énumérées.

2. On peut dire, en termes généraux, que ce pays comprend les Vilayets d'Erzéroum, Van, Bitlis, Hakkiari, Kharpout, Dersin, et Diarbékir, avec l'exception, peut-être, dans ce dernier vilayet, du Sandjak de Malatia; les Sandjaks de Sivas, Kara-Hissar, et Tokat, dans le Vilayet de Sivas; le Sandjak de Marash, dans le Vilayet d'Alep, et une partie du Sandjak de Sis, dans le Vilayet d'Adana.

3. *Un Haut Commissaire devrait être nommé aussi longtemps que le nécessiteront les circonstances pour surveiller l'introduction des réformes. Il devrait recevoir des pleins pouvoirs exécutifs, y compris la faculté, sous certaines réserves, de renvoyer les employés corrompus ou incapables.*

Projet Primitif de MM. Wilson et Trotter.

juridiction sur les Vilayets d'Erzéroum, Van, Bitlis, et Hakkiari, tandis que la juridiction de l'autre Haut Commissaire s'étendrait sur tout le reste des contrées déjà énumérées.

4. Le pays continuerait, comme à présent, à être divisé en vilayets, sandjaks, cazas, nahiés, et cariés, ou mahallés. Les Hauts Commissaires, après consultation avec les Valis et les Conseils-Généraux des Vilayets, auraient la faculté de réajuster les frontières territoriales.

5. Le succès ultérieur de l'introduction des réformes tournant presque entièrement sur le caractère personnel des Valis il faudrait que le plus grand soin fut apporté au choix de cette classe d'employés; c'est nécessairement Sa Majesté le Sultan qui décidera ce choix.

Les Valis, Gouverneurs-Généraux devraient être nommés pour cinq ans et être inamovibles, sauf en cas d'incapacité, ou de mauvaise conduite prouvée devant une Commission nommée *ad hoc*.

Les Mutessarifs (Vice-Gouverneurs) devraient être choisis par le Vali et nommés par le Sultan sur l'avis du Haut Commissaire. Dans les vilayets contenant au moins trois sandjaks, un Mutessarif devrait être aussi nommé au sandjak où demeure le Vali, et, pendant l'absence de ce dernier, ce Mutessarif le remplacerait. Les nominations devraient être pour cinq ans.

Les Caïmacams, Gouverneurs des cazas, seraient choisis par les Mutessarifs, et nommés par les Valis avec l'approbation du Haut Commissaire pour cinq ans. Si les Chrétiens forment la majorité du caza, le Caïmacam aussi devrait être Chrétien, et Musulman là où la majorité est Musulmane.

Les Mudirs, Administrateurs des nahiés, devraient être élus librement par les Moukhtars des cariés pour deux ans; pour la réélection il faudrait à un Mudir les trois quarts des votes des Moukhtars.

Les Moukhtars, chefs des cariés (communes villageoises), et des mahallés (quartiers dans les villes) devraient être librement élus par les villageois ou les citoyens. Dans les villages mixtes un Moukhtar serait élu pour chaque communauté. Les villages contenant vingt maisons ou moins n'auraient qu'un Moukhtar, et ceux de dix

Texte Modifié.

4. Le pays continuerait, comme à présent, à être divisé en vilayet, sandjak, cazas, nahiés, et cariés, ou mahallés. *Le Haut Commissaire*, après consultation avec les Valis et les Conseils-Généraux des Vilayets, *aurait* la faculté de réajuster les frontières territoriales.

Vu la difficulté d'appliquer le même regime à des populations sédentaires et à des tribus nomades ou semi-nomades, la distribution des communes et des groupes administratifs doit être effectuée de manière à réunir le plus possible d'éléments homogènes quant à la nationalité et au rite.

5. Le succès ultérieur de l'introduction des réformes tournant presque entièrement sur le caractère personnel des Valis, il faudrait que le plus grand soin fut apporté au choix de cette classe d'employés; c'est nécessairement Sa Majesté le Sultan qui décidera ce choix.

Les Valis, Gouverneurs-Généraux *devraient avoir dans une durée déterminée de leurs fonctions une garantie qu'il leur sera possible de veiller à une bonne administration et d'en être responsables.*

Les Mutessarifs (Vice-Gouverneurs) devraient être *nommés par le Sultan sur la présentation des Valis.* Dans les vilayets contenant au moins trois sandjaks, un Mutessarif devrait être aussi nommé au sandjak où demeure le Vali, et, pendant l'absence de ce dernier, ce Mutessarif le remplacerait. *Les mêmes garanties de durée devraient être stipulées pour les fonctions des Mutessarifs.*

Les Caïmacams, Gouverneurs des cazas, seraient choisis par les Mutessarifs, et nommés par les Valis. Si les Chrétiens forment la majorité du caza, le Caïmacam aussi devrait être Chrétien; et Musulman là où la majorité est Musulmane.

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Projet Primitif de MM. Wilson et Trotter.

maisons ou moins n'auraient pas de Moukhtar.

6. Les Conseils Administratifs de vilayet qui existent actuellement seraient abolis, et à leur place, on établirait des Conseils Généraux tels que dans ce moment sont censés d'exister. Ces Conseils Généraux devraient consister à peu près de dix-huit membres payés, et ils devraient, en sus d'autres pouvoirs, avoir un contrôle bien défini sur les dépenses du vilayet. La composition de ces Conseils Généraux et le mode d'élection des membres resteront à discuter plus tard; mais chaque communauté comptant 500 âmes dans le vilayet devrait avoir au moins un représentant; et il ne devrait y avoir aucun membre de droit sauf peut-être le chef spirituel de chaque communauté. Ce seraient les Valis qui présideraient ces Conseils Généraux.

7. Un certain pour cent de revenus du vilayet serait versé au Trésor Impérial et le reste serait employé sous le contrôle du Conseil Général à l'administration intérieure du vilayet et à des services d'utilité publique.

Là où des troupes seraient cantonnées dans le vilayet, les frais qu'elles occasionnent devraient être défrayés du pour cent réservé au Trésor Impérial et ne devrait sous aucun prétexte tomber à charge de la partie du revenu réservé au vilayet.

On ne tirerait plus de "havalés" sur les revenus des vilayets, et les "havalés" qui existent déjà ne seraient plus payés que sur la partie du revenu réservé au Trésor Impérial.

Le système actuel de percevoir les dîmes serait modifié et amélioré afin de faire disparaître les abus qui existent.

Les revenus "vacoufs" ne seraient employés que pour les objets auxquels ils sont destinés, savoir: le maintien des mosquées, écoles, ponts, fontaines, &c.

8. Les Conseils d'Administration des sandjaks devraient être abolis; cependant, chaque caza devrait, comme à présent, avoir un Conseil Administratif. Ce Conseil serait composé de [?] ou de six membres qui représenteraient équitablement les nombres relatifs des communautés dans le caza. Il ne devrait y avoir aucun membre de droit à l'exception, peut-être, du chef spirituel de chaque communauté. Le Caïmacam présiderait le Conseil.

9. Des réformes dans les Cours de Justice et dans le système de la procédure sont très nécessaires. Ces réformes seraient en effet: la concession aux Mudirs et Caïma-

Texte Modifié.

6. Les Conseils Administratifs de vilayet qui existent actuellement, seraient *transformés en Conseils Généraux, tels que dans ce moment ils sont censés d'exister.* Ces Conseils Généraux devraient consister à peu près, de dix-huit membres payés, et ils devraient, en sus d'autres pouvoirs, avoir un contrôle bien défini sur les dépenses du vilayet. La composition de ces Conseils Généraux et le mode d'élection des membres resteront à discuter plus tard; mais chaque communauté comptant 500 âmes dans le vilayet devrait avoir au moins un représentant, et il ne devrait y avoir aucun membre de droit sauf, peut être, le chef spirituel de chaque communauté. Ce seraient les Valis qui présideraient ces Conseils Généraux.

7. *La plus grande partie des revenus généraux du vilayet serait affectée, sous le contrôle du Conseil Général, aux services administratifs et d'utilité publique de la province, et le reste serait versé au Trésor Impérial, à l'exception, bien entendu, des revenus déjà hypothéqués et qui ne sauraient par conséquent être distrait de leur destination spéciale.*

Là où des troupes seraient cantonnées dans le vilayet, les frais qu'elles occasionnent devraient être défrayés du pour cent réservé au Trésor Impérial et ne devrait sous aucun prétexte tomber à charge de la partie du revenu réservé au vilayet.

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cams de pouvoirs magistraux bien définis; l'institution des Cours d'Assises qui voyageraient dans le pays; une réduction du nombre de Cours et de Juges; la simplification de la procédure légale; la diminution des frais y associés; et l'emploi d'un certain nombre de Chrétiens comme officiers et Secrétaires dans les Cours de Justice.

Aux Inspecteurs de Justice on devrait accorder des pouvoirs exécutifs, munis desquels ils pourraient agir efficacement avec l'approbation du Haut Commissaire, soit dans les cas de vénalité et de corruption de la part des autorités de justice, soit en réprimant les irrégularités dans la procédure légale; ils pourraient ainsi empêcher, par des procès plus rapides contre les personnes accusées, l'encombrement actuel des prisons.

Les postes de Procureur-Général et de son adjoint qui viennent d'être créés devraient être abolis.

Les Mustantiks, ou Juges d'Instruction, ne devraient jamais être membres des Cours.

Les Juges des Cours Commerciales devraient être, ou avoir été, commerçants.

La loi actuelle contre la corruption selon laquelle on punit également le corrupteur et le corrompu devrait être changée

Les fonctionnaires publics accusés d'une crime quelconque devraient être jugés devant les Tribunaux ordinaires.

10. Tout sujet Ottoman devrait être considéré comme égal en présence de la loi; les Chrétiens devraient être admis à une part équitable des postes dans les bureaux publics.

11. L'ordre devrait être soutenu dans les vilayets soit par une police mixte, soit par une gendarmerie avec un nombre proportionnel d'officiers Chrétiens. Cette troupe devrait être organisée sur un pied efficace, et devrait se recruter parmi les Chrétiens et les Musulmans en proportion fixée par millier de la population. Un officier de haut rang et d'expérience prouvée devrait être attaché à l'État-Major de chaque Commissaire pour l'aider à organiser la police.

Quand les agents de la police poursuivent des malfaiteurs, ils devraient avoir le droit de traverser la frontière et d'entrer dans les vilayets voisins.

12. Le système d'obliger les villageois à loger gratuitement les employés du Gouvernement, les militaires en marche et les officiers et simples soldats de la police devrait, sous des sévères amendes, être

Texte Modifié.

Caïmacams de pouvoir *judiciaire tels qu'en exercent les Juges de Paix;* l'institution des Cours d'Assises qui voyageraient dans le pays; une réduction du nombre de Cours et de Juges; la simplification de la procédure légale; la diminution des frais y associés; et l'emploi d'un certain nombre de Chrétiens comme officiers et Secrétaires dans les Cours de Justice.

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10. Tout sujet Ottoman devrait être considéré comme égal en présence de la loi; les Chrétiens devraient être admis à une part équitable des postes dans les bureaux publics.

11. L'ordre devrait être *maintenu* dans le vilayet *par un double gendarmerie. La première communale, composée de gardes champêtres, devrait être choisie par les autorités de la commune parmi les habitants mêmes intéressés au premier chef à défendre leur sécurité contre les malfaiteurs. La seconde provinciale, destinée à veiller à l'ordre public de toute la province ainsi qu'à la poursuite du brigandage, devrait être recrutée dans les gardes champêtres de toutes les communes et être commandée par des officiers que le Gouverneur choisirait parmi les Chrétiens et les Musulmans des diverses nationalités de la province en proportion de leur valeur numérique.*

Quand les agents de la police poursuivent des malfaiteurs ils devraient avoir le droit de passer la frontière et d'entrer dans le vilayet voisin.

12. Le système d'obliger les villageois à loger gratuitement les employés du Gouvernement, les militaires en marche et les officiers et simples soldats de la police devrait, sous des sévères amendes, être

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rigoureusement défendu. Un règlement au sujet des billets de logement approuvé par les autorités militaires devrait être rédigé et strictement observé.

13. Dans chaque nahié les terres et les maisons devraient être évaluées de nouveau par un officier de cadastre agissant d'accord avec les Conseils des villages.

Un recensement de la population par carié et par communauté devrait se faire dans le plus bref délai pour que les frontières territoriales soient fixées de nouveau pour assurer que chaque communauté soit dûment représentée dans les différents Conseils du vilayet.

14. En ce qui concerne les Kurdes nomades, nous sommes d'avis qu'il serait bien de nommer un fonctionnaire de rang élevé avec le titre de "Ashiré-Mémour," qui serait la voie principale de communication entre le Gouvernement et toutes les tribus nomades Kurdes. Cet officier serait revêtu de pleins pouvoirs pour arrêter et punir sommairement les voleurs et autres malfaiteurs. On lui fournirait une escorte suffisamment nombreuse, et il voyagerait constamment passant de tribu en tribu afin de bien les connaître. Il aurait des subordonnés capables sous ses ordres qui seraient aussi bien que leur chef revêtus de pouvoirs judiciaires, dont l'un accompagnerait toujours chaque grande tribu dans sa migration annuelle.

Des conditions avantageuses pourraient aussi être proposées par le Gouvernement pour engager, peu à peu, les tribus nomades à se fixer.

Quant aux razzias le long de la frontière Turco-Persane il est bien à désirer qu'une Convention soit passée entre les deux Gouvernements qui mettrait fin aux désordres et aux irrégularités qui y ont si souvent lieu.

15. Les communautés qui doivent être considérées comme telles dans les arrangements nouveaux sont les Turcs Sunnis, Turcs Kizilbash, Kurdes Sunnis, Kurdes Kizilbash, Circassiens, Avschârs, Arméniens Grégoriens, Arméniens Catholiques Romains, Arméniens Protestants, Grecs, Chaldéens, Jacobites, Catholiques Syriens, Yézidis, Arabes.

Texte Modifié.

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No. 38.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received February 20.)

E
(No. 103.)

Constantinople, February 14, 1882.

My Lord,

I YESTERDAY reminded Assim Pasha of the message which he sent me some time ago, as reported in my telegram No. 18 of the 19th instant, that within twenty days

something serious would be done in the direction of reforms for Armenia, and I asked him, as the period indicated had now elapsed, what had been his meaning. He said that he had referred to the appointment of the Commissioner about whom he knew I had recently received a message from the Sultan.

Said Pasha also referred to the subject in the same terms. His Highness informed me further that he had recently presented to the Sultan a plan of reforms which he had elaborated with the greatest care, but that His Majesty hesitated to adopt them. Upon this, he had offered his resignation to the Sultan, which, however, had not been accepted.

Although, after so many delays and disappointments, it does not do to be too sanguine, it really now looks as though the Sultan had made up his mind to take some such step as that indicated by his Ministers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 39.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received February 22.)

(No. 104.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 16, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I again brought to the notice of the Prime Minister the question of the dismissal of the Vali of Diarbekir and the Kaïmakam of Marash. Said Pasha informed me that both these officials would very shortly be sent about their business.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 40.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received February 27.)

(No. 121.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 21, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that Ahmet Vefyk Pasha has returned to Brousa.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 41.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 94.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, February 27, 1882.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 94, Confidential, of the 11th instant, forwarding copies of despatches from Major Everett relative to certain alleged preparations at Erzeroum for an Armenian insurrection; and I have to acquaint you that Her Majesty's Government approve the instructions which you inform me you have sent on this subject to Major Everett.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 42.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

E
(No. 95.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, February 28, 1882.*

HER Majesty's Government have had under their consideration your Excellency's despatch No. 102 of the 14th instant, and the scheme of reforms for Armenia therein inclosed, which, as finally revised by your Excellency and the Russian Ambassador, has been submitted to and approved by the Representatives at Constantinople of the other Great Powers.

I have to acquaint your Excellency that your proceedings in the matter of the proposed reforms have the entire approval of Her Majesty's Government, who have learnt with satisfaction from your Excellency's Report how cordial has been the co-operation you have received from the Russian Ambassador in examining and maturing the original scheme drawn up by Colonel Sir Charles Wilson and Major Trotter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 43.

Earl Granville to Sir E. Thornton.

(No. 68.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February 28, 1882.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 62 of this day, transmitting a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, in which his Excellency forwards the scheme of reforms for Armenia, I have to request that your Excellency will express to M. de Giers the satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government have learnt from the Earl of Dufferin the cordial co-operation which his Excellency has received from the Russian Ambassador in the elaboration of the scheme.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 44.

*Earl Granville to Sir E. Thornton.**

(No. 62.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February 28, 1882.*

I TRANSMIT herewith a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, forwarding the scheme of reforms for Armenia as originally drafted by Sir Charles Wilson and Major Trotter, and as subsequently revised by Her Majesty's Ambassador and M. de Novikow, and submitted to and approved by the Representatives at Constantinople of the other Great Powers.†

I have to request that you will communicate a copy of the final scheme to the Government to which you are accredited.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 45.

Mr. Thomson to Earl Granville.—(Received March 6.)

(No. 7.)
My Lord, *Tehran, January 16, 1882.*

A SHORT time ago Fahri Bey, the Turkish Ambassador here, acting under instructions he had received from the Porte, addressed a Memorandum to the Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs, claiming compensation, on behalf of Sheikh Obeidullah, for damages done by the Persian troops to villages belonging to him during the late Kurdish outbreak.

This communication at first caused a considerable amount of irritation in official circles, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs endeavoured to induce Fahri Bey to withdraw his Memorandum. This the Ambassador declined, as he had been acting under instructions from his Government; but he gave Mirza Said Khan to understand that no very great importance need be attached to the claim put forward by the Porte, and that if the Persian Government would return any answer they thought fit he would forward it to Constantinople.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs has sent in his reply, denying that the Persian Government are liable for the alleged damages, and stating that if any claim is to be

* Also to Lord Lyons (No. 213), Sir A. Paget (No. 81), Sir H. Elliot (No. 52), and Lord Augustus Hill (No. 89).
† No. 87.

brought forward it is for Persia to do so, for the injury inflicted on her by the Sheikh's rebellious Kurds.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RONALD F. THOMSON.

No. 46.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received March 6.)

(No. 123.) *Constantinople, February 21, 1882.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a letter which I received last November from the Armenian Patriarch, inclosing a statistical Table of the Armenian population.

On the receipt of this letter I forwarded it to Major Trotter, with the request that he would furnish me with any remarks he might have to make as regards the accuracy of the numbers given.

I have now received his reply, of which I have also the honour to inclose a copy, from which your Lordship will perceive that Major Trotter considers that the numbers given in the inclosed Table, namely, 886,860—without the 30 per cent. added by the Armenian authorities to bring them up to the total of the statistical Tables presented to the Berlin Conference—are, perhaps, fairly accurate.

Major Trotter, however, regards the estimate of the Moslem population as quite worthless.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 46.

Monsignor Nercès to the Earl of Dufferin.

Le 20 Octobre (v. s.), 1881.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

JE prends la liberté de présenter à votre Excellence un Tableau statistique, dressé tout récemment dans les provinces habitées par les Arméniens. C'est pour la troisième fois que le Patriarcat entreprend de faire le dénombrement des populations de l'Arménie, guidé par le désir de rectifier et de compléter son œuvre, au fur et à mesure qu'il reçoit des renseignements mieux contrôlés.

Je crois devoir ajouter, M. l'Ambassadeur, que cette dernière statistique a été entreprise dans le cours de la présente année, sous la persécution que les autorités ont fait subir à nos représentants.

Veuillez, &c.
Le Patriarche des Arméniens de Turquie,
(Signé) NERCÈS.

P.S.—Je m'empresse d'ajouter ici que les détails statistiques d'autres vilayets d'Arménie, déjà communiqués à votre Excellence, ne contenaient, quant au vilayet de Sivas, que les populations Arménienne et Turque du diocèse du Métropolitain Arménien de ce vilayet.

Le présent Tableau de Sivas ci-inclus, qui contient les populations entières de ce vilayet, est dressé par le Métropolitain Arménien de Sivas; mais je crois qu'il est aussi incomplet que les autres, et comme toute statistique précédente faite, soit par le Gouvernement, soit par nous, soit par les autres.

N.

Inclosure 2 in No. 46.

Troisième Tableau statistique dressé par les Arméniens sous le coup des Persécutions et Empêchements soulevés par le Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman.

1. LES chiffres des Arméniens qui figurent dans le Tableau ci-joint ont été réunis et envoyés par les autorités ecclésiastiques des provinces mentionnées. Pour avoir un dénombrement exact de la population Arménienne on devrait ajouter 35 pour cent sur les chiffres du Tableau, ce qui est constaté par le témoignage des Arméniens et même des étrangers qui ont résidé en Arménie. Pour suppléer à ce manque, on pourrait ajouter, sans exagération, 30 pour cent. sur le nombre des Arméniens, qui s'élèverait approximativement au chiffre de 1,152, 811 (y compris les Nestoriens). Les chiffres d'autres populations sont comptés au maximum.

2. Les statistiques officielles comptent, au nombre des Musulmans du Vilayet de Sivas et d'autres vilayets, même les Kizilbashs, qui ne sont pas Musulmans.

3. Le présent Tableau et ses précédents ne sont pas complets, parce que le Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman a empêché les Arméniens de dresser leur statistique.

4. Les nombres des Arméniens des provinces de Diarbékir, de Kurdistan, d'Adana, d'Alep, de Kastamouni, d'Aïden, d'Angora, de Brousse, de Trébizonde, d'Ismidt, &c., ne figurent pas dans ces Tableaux, provinces dans lesquelles on compte plus d'un million d'Arméniens, conformément aux anciens statistiques du Gouvernement.

5. Dans le présent Tableau ne figurent pas les vieux Syriens, connu sous le nom de Jacobits, qui sont fraternisés avec l'Église Arménienne, et dont le nombre s'élève à plus de 150,000 dans les provinces de Diarbékir, d'Alep, &c., suivant la constatation de leur Patriarcat, ainsi que les Arméniens Protestants et Catholiques et les Grecs, qui se trouvent dans les vilayets d'Alep, d'Adana, d'Angora, &c.

6. Le Tableau statistique présenté au Congrès de Berlin contenait le nombre approximatif des Arméniens qui habitent l'Arménie Majeure, et qui était basé sur les almanachs Ottomans de l'an de l'Hégire de 1294 et sur les données officielles. Il a été considéré comme inexact et exagéré, sans qu'on eût pu toutefois dresser un Tableau plus exact et moins contestable.

La deuxième statistique dressée par le Patriarcat Arménien représentait le nombre des Arméniens qui résident dans un cercle plus restreint des provinces de l'Arménie. C'est pourquoi l'on n'y trouve pas figurée une partie des Arméniens qui figuraient dans le précédent Tableau.

Dans le présent Tableau figurent aussi ces districts, habités par les Turcs et les Kurdes, qui ne figuraient pas dans les deux précédents Tableaux; on y trouve de plus les tribus nomades. Il faut avouer, néanmoins, que ces trois statistiques ne sont qu'approximatives, et ne sauraient être d'une exactitude incontestable. Le Gouvernement lui-même n'a pu faire dresser un Tableau statistique complet. Les Tableaux statistiques publiés par le Gouvernement depuis plusieurs années diffèrent trop sensiblement les uns des autres, et sont souvent contradictoires.

Inclosure 3 in No. 46.

Tableau Général approximatif des Populations des Vilayets d'Erzéroum, Van, Moush, Bidlis, Sivas, et Kharpout, dressé par les soins du Patriarcat Arménien de Constantinople.

	Arméniens.	Arméno-Catholiques.	Arméno-Protestants.	Arméno-Musulmans.	Grecs.	Turcs.	Kurdes.	Kizilbashs.	Tcherkess.	Juifs.	Arméno-Grecs.	Nestoriens.
1. Erzéroum (ville), Erzéroum (campagne), Narman, Tortoum, Isbir et Guisguim, Vérine-Sdorine Passens, Khenous, Tekman, Shoushar, Keghi, Goynouk, Ferdjan, et Mamakhatoun, Baibourt ..	90,739	7,836	659	7,669	1,315	91,721	31,738	21,158 Yézidis.	1,202	..	..	..
Hayazid (district) et ses 38 villages ..	10,013	1,220	..	..	..	1,650	27,500	2,700	..	..	..	..
Erzindjan (ville) et ses 32 villages ..	12,160	..	..	..	..	3,050	980	..	..	..	..	..
67 villages se trouvant dans les environs d'Erzindjan	..	..	..	..	..	5,004	3,103	..	..	..	..	..
Gamak (ville) et ses 21 villages ..	5,772	..	..	..	..	3,159	50	..	..	..	..	..
Commune de Balaban, formée de 29 villages	79	..	..	..	..	..	2,375	..	..	..	..	..
	118,763	9,056	659	7,669	1,315	105,565	65,644	23,858	1,202	..	..	..
2. Van (ville).—Perguéri, Mahmoudi ou Khoshap, Akhpag ou Hekiari, Guévér, Tchoufamerg, Shadakh, Nordouz et Guiaverguian (réunis), Moks, Mamordank, Sharguerd, Hayotz-tzor, Osôun, Guiavash, Akhlat, Aldjavaz ou Ardzgué, Ardjésh ou Katchpérouni	133,859	..	..	..	..	18,020	88,047*	Yézidis. 5,860	750	1,328	..	88,338
3. Moush (ville), Moush (campagne), Vartow.—Vérine-Boulanek, Nerkine-Boulanek, Khelat, Manazguerd, Khenous, Khoui, Pernashen, Sassoun-Shadakh ..	107,638	..	..	..	..	8,350	11,130	..	..	..	..	..
4. Bitlis (ville).—Dadig, Guzeldéré, Rahva, Medga	22,822	..	..	..	..	..	1,611	..	..	..	..	..
5. Sivas (ville).—Tchufig, Kozguér, Khani-Ddjédid, Cangal, Tonouz, Azizié, Darcindé, Divrig, Gurin, Tokal, Amasia, Karahissar (villes)	240,643	2,446	226	..	5,141	269,456	68,698	268,156	88,820	..	..	..
6. Kharpout (ville) et ses 62 villages ..	38,407	284	1,519	..	..	16,418 / 10,258	28,816	3,200	..	..	..	..
Turcs dans les villages Turcs ..	..	..	..	..	..	Kizilbashs. 10,833 / 5,748	Musulmans. 1,388 / Kizilbashs. 1,229	..	..	..	..	..
Arabguir (district) et ses villages ..	13,988	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Arghen (bourgade)	..	..	..	..	..	7,236	Guermanidji. 22,350 / Zaza. 3,350	..	..	..	..	..
Palou (district) et ses 46 villages ..	16,466	..	..	..	..	..	Trois tribus. 11,000	..	..	..	..	..
Djalagh-tehour, Meleshgout, et leurs villages	4,875	..	..	..	..	260	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tchenkoush et Adish (bourgades) ..	4,200	..	..	..	..	2,080	4,600	..	..	..	..	..
27 villages Turcs et Kurdes	..	..	..	..	..	2,055	2,377	..	..	..	..	..
Tchemendjak (Caïma) et ses 71 villages.	14,841	..	..	..	..	..	3,140	..	..	..	..	..
60 villages exclusivement peuplés de Kurdes	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	520	..
Aghen (ville) et ses 18 villages ..	9,441	..	..	..	..	14,280	..	..	..	..	..	..
Aghen (bourgade) et ses 58 villages ..	3,038	..	..	..	..	12,016	..	..	..	..	..	..
	105,256	284	1,519	..	..	91,114	78,250	3,220	..	..	520	..
Hadjin (ville).—Les communes de Mazam-Kanlek, Kotoun, Tapan, Yagh-Basan, Gurlesh et Itoun	12,097	..	..	..	..	5,222	..	..	460	..	..	..
Zeytoun et ses 28 villages	27,460	..	..	..	..	8,200	..	..	..	..	..	..
	40,457	..	..	..	..	13,422	..	..	460	..	..	..

Tableau Général.

Vilayets—											
Erzéroum	118,763	9,056	659	7,669	1,315	105,565	65,644	23,858	1,202	..	..	..
Van	133,859	..	..	..	..	18,020	88,047	5,860	750	1,328	..	88,338
Moush	107,638	..	..	..	..	8,350	11,130	..	..	..	..	..
Bitlis	22,822	..	..	..	..	..	1,611	..	..	..	..	..
Sivas	240,643	2,446	226	..	5,141	268,456	68,698	268,156	88,820	..	..	..
Kharpout	105,256	284	1,519	..	..	91,114	78,250	3,220	..	..	520	..
	729,181	11,786	2,404	7,669	6,456	492,114	313,410	301,394	90,772	1,328	520	88,338
Hadjin et Zeytoun	40,457	..	..	..	..	13,422	..	..	460			
Arméno-Catholiques, Protestants, Musulmans, Grecs, dans ces localités	28,835											
Syriens Jacobits	88,338											
	886,811*					505,536			91,232			

* Surcroit de 30 pour cent—100 : 130 :: 886,811 f. = 1,152,854.

* Le chiffre de 88,047 Kurdes comprend aussi les vingt-cinq tribus nomades composées de 30,600 personnes environ, qui, pour passer l'été, viennent de Mossoul et de Diarbékir et se répandent dans les districts de Van et les environs. Il comprend aussi les huit tribus nomades venant de la Perse, évaluées à 18,050 âmes. Ces tribus se répandent sur toute la frontière Turque et nombre d'eux vivent sous des tentes dans les districts de Hékiari, Mahmoudié, et Alpag. A l'arrivée de l'hiver, elles se retirent de ces contrées.

Inclosure 4 in No. 46.

TABLEAU statistique du Vilayet de Sivas.

No.	Noms du Vilayet et de ses Dépendances.	Nombre des Villages.	Arméniens.	Turcs.	Kurdes.	Tcherkess.	Grecs.	Catholiques.	Protestants.	Kizilbashs.
1	Sivas (ville)	..	17,400	18,437	..	200	300	46	56	208,456
	Districts—								40	
2	Tchoûg	119	11,884	6,716	5,609	300	26	..	80	
3	Kozgoûr	252	10,150	11,850	10,309	300	2,572	..		
4	Kanî-djélû	151	865	7,912	..	11,000	1,800	2,400	..	
5	Kangal	90	5,075	8,980	1,806	1,690	..	..	..	
6	Tonous	114	12,000	19,272	..	3,000	125	..	..	
7	Azizié	251	9,600	11,244	5,503	28,500	250	..	30	
8	Dardindé	20	3,000	15,000	1,425	..	..	..	..	
9	Divrig	128	18,072	43,278	2,000	..	..	..	..	
10	Gurin	37	10,536	7,900	1,000	130	..	..	..	
11	Tokat	171	16,200	23,623	9,148	18,020	..	..	..	
12	Amasiah	956	62,400	210,800	20,000	26,000	..	..	..	
13	Kara-hissar	668	63,500	117,000	11,320	..	..	..	..	
	Total	2,987	240,843	536,912	68,698	88,620	5,141	2,446	226	208,456
	La partie des Kizilbashs qui forme plus de la moitié ..			268,456						
				268,456						

Pour tout le Vilayet.

Inclosure 5 in No. 46.

Major Trotter to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 3.) *Constantinople, February* 15, 1882.

My Lord,

PRIOR to my departure for Smyrna your Lordship sent me for examination a set of statistics that had recently been furnished by the Armenian Patriarchate.

Your Excellency is aware that the publication of the last Turkey Blue Book (No. 6 of 1881) created considerable excitement in Armenian circles, especially with regard to those portions which showed the discrepancies and inaccuracies of the statistics that had been furnished by the Armenian Patriarchate.

At a meeting last autumn of the Armenian Assemblée Nationale, M. Sdépan Papazian, the reputed author of the statistical Tables presented to the Berlin Conference,* made a violent attack on the Patriarch for having communicated to the Embassies statistical Tables without having previously consulted the National Assembly, in consequence of which the enormous divergence between the Berlin and the more recent Patriarchal figures had attracted attention, and called forth remarks tending to show the untrustworthiness of both sets of figures.

It would seem that in the statistical compilation now under notice an attempt is made to vindicate the accuracy of the Berlin figures (*vide* paragraph 6 of the explanatory note), and to reconcile the inconsistencies that had been pointed out by Sir C. Wilson and myself with regard to different sets of Armenian statistics.†

In the Berlin compilation, by a glaringly unfair manipulation of official figures, it was tried to prove that, according to the said figures, the Armenian population of Erzeroum and Van (including Bitlis and Hekkiari) amounted to 1,150,000 souls. I have subsequently shown that, in all probability, the real number does not exceed 450,000; while the Patriarchal figures supplied to the Embassy in 1880 gave 373,500 Armenians, plus 85,000 Nestorians.

The figures actually shown in the present statistical Table are—

	Orthodox Armenians.
Erzeroum	118,703
Van	153,859
Moush	107,638
Bitlis	22,882
	383,082
Armenian Catholics	9,059
Armenian Protestants	659
Total	392,795

* *Vide* note (3), p. 129, Blue Book, "Turkey No. 6 (1881)."
† *Vide* Blue Book, "Turkey No. 6 (1881)," pp. 98 and 123.

which figures are, perhaps, not very far from the truth. But to obtain the Berlin total of 1,150,000 they now add the Armenian population of other vilayets, and also the Nestorian population of Hekkiari, thus:—

Erzeroum, &c., as above	392,795
Sivas	240,843
Kharput	105,256
Hadjin and Zeytoun (in Silesia)	40,157
Armeno-Catholics and Protestants in the above localities	19,120
Nestorians	88,388
Total	886,860

To obtain the required total of 1,150,000, we require an addition of 30 per cent. Hence the startling note: "1. Les chiffres des Arméniens ont été réunis et envoyés par les autorités ecclésiastiques des provinces mentionnées. Pour avoir un nombre exact de la population Arménienne on devrait ajouter 33 pour cent sur les chiffres du Tableau, ce qui est constaté par le témoignage des Arméniens et même des étrangers qui ont résidé en Arménie. Pour suppléer à ce manque, on pourrait ajouter, sans exagération, 30 pour cent sur le nombre des Arméniens qui s'élèverait approximativement au chiffre de 1,152,811. Les chiffres d'autres populations sont comptés au maximum."

I will only add that the final result given by the Patriarchate for the population of the provinces as given above, i.e., Erzeroum, Van, Moush, Bitlis, Hekkiari, Sivas, Kharput, and Hadjin-Zeytoun, give—

Armenians, including Nestorians	1,153,854
Greeks	6,458
Total Christians	1,159,312
Turks	505,836
Kurds	313,410
Kizilbashes	301,394
Tcherkess	91,232
Total Moslems	1,211,872

In a recent Report of Major Everett on the Thortoum and Ispir districts, written after a residence there of several weeks, his estimate of the Armenian population agreed fairly with the detailed figures given by the Patriarch in a former list, on which the present Tables are based. I am myself inclined to regard the actual detailed figures (without the 30 per cent augmentation) to be a fair approximation of the truth as regards the Armenian population; but I do not consider that the Patriarch's estimate of the Moslem population has any value at all.

I have the honour to return the statistical Tables, which I may observe have been printed in the "Journal d'Orient" (Vienna), No. 50, of the 11th December, 1881.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

No. 47.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 6.)

(No. 126.) *Constantinople, February* 21, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch, which I have received from Lieutenant Bennet, reporting upon the condition of the Vilayet of Adana.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 47.

Vice-Consul Bennet to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 3.) *Adana, February 6, 1882.*

My Lord,

SINCE I left the Adana Vilayet in May last affairs have been going on as well as can be expected in a country where the Government is hopelessly rotten and inefficient. Taking the condition of the Adana Vilayet with the portions of Aleppo, Diarbekir, and Sivas Vilayets I have visited since that time, I must say it compares favourably in many ways; there is less brigandage, less animosity between sects, and there is more doing for the good of the country, but even this is not saying much. I can see no improvement in public morals, and I have come to the conclusion that the demoralization of the officials and the universal corruption is only equalled by the rapacity, dishonesty, and spirit of intrigue which pervades the entire community, Christian as well as Moslem.

The officials of Turkey may be divided into three classes: first, the very bad lot who are entirely dead to all good and who sooner or later commit themselves to such outrageous misdeeds that their temporary dismissal or removal to another sphere, either through the representations of the Ambassadors or through a change of Ministry at the Porte, entailing a loss of protection, ensues. Secondly, we have the ordinary run of officials, comprising about 80 per cent. of the whole, all of whom are corrupt and half at least incapable, differing only in the details of their venality, some showing a more gentlemanly spirit than others. And thirdly, we have a very small class of men of ordinary intelligence who administer to the best of their capacity. This latter class may be subdivided, a few of them being enlightened men who see the deplorable and hopeless state the country has drifted into and who are thoroughly disgusted with and ashamed of their own Government. These find themselves powerless for good and generally drift into a hopeless state of exile; and the majority belonging to that class who cannot bring themselves to be corrupt, but who, from ambition or pecuniary motives, are content to retain office as long as they can and to drift with the current. To this latter class belongs Abédine Pasha, the present Vali of Adana, and I must say his position is a very difficult one. Being ambitious, he has to keep in both with Europe and with the Porte; temporarily, I believe, under a cloud with the Palace, he cannot forget the important position he once held, and he hopes that a turn in the tide may reinstate him in power; at the same time, he has sufficient faith in the future and self-respect not to risk tarnishing his good name in the eyes of the foreign Powers. So there must be no troubles, no complaints, all must be going on satisfactorily, and this can only be obtained by great discretion. For, my Lord, the country has arrived at that condition when there would be as great an outcry against a very good Vali as against a very bad one, so that, even supposing he had not the legitimate excuse of want of power, it would be impossible for any man, even a European, to administer satisfactorily; he would be blocked and his efforts frustrated by at least nine-tenths of his subordinates at the outset; all Government business and most of the ordinary commercial transactions of the country involve intriguery, cheating, and bribery, nothing can be done without one or other sooner or later, no one will do anything for an ordinary salary or profit, and consequently the venality of the officials has to be recognized and winked at, and means found for, or at least no obstacles thrown in the way of, their legitimate or long recognized paths to profit, and even influential outsiders must be favoured with plums to which they have been long accustomed and which they regard as a right. But besides this, a Vali has really very little power, none at all over the Justice Department except indirectly. I think it was Said Pasha, Vali of Konieh, who said there were eight Valis to every province, and only one residing in it. The Mufettish (Inspector of Justice) corresponds directly with the Minister of Justice, and cannot take orders from the Vali, the Defterdar with the Minister of Finance, the tithes official with the head of his Department at Stamboul, the Aloi Bey (Chief of Police) with the Minister of Police, and so on; but even these lesser officials have no power; the Mufettish, for instance, can only report bad men, he cannot remove them without orders from Constantinople, which never come, the chances are, so that a Vali has a valid excuse to offer for nearly any thing that may happen in his province. In considering the character of a Vali it is necessary to remember all this.

Abédine Pasha is not corrupt, and he is energetic, and that is saying a great deal. His hobby is the improvement of agriculture, and being quite innocent of any previous knowledge on the subject, he makes ridiculous mistakes, and is very impracticable.

It is a pity almost he ever took it up, as it is little likely to do much good, and his actions show him to be singularly destitute of common sense. He has a habit of listening to any one, and of being convinced half-a-dozen ways in a day. He is acquiring a lot of land on the plain, which, unfortunately, gives people the opportunity of saying uncharitable things, and of presenting him with oxen. I believe there can be no doubt the transactions were legitimate. Most of his property is near Adana, and liable to floods, and I think he is more likely to lose than make money over the business.

There has been a move in public works since Abédine Pasha came here, but it mostly takes the form of words. We have an excellent Chief Engineer, Signor Gramola, an Italian, who thoroughly understands his business, and submits excellent projects; I am sorry to say, however, they are often tampered with to suit private persons, and usually abandoned or postponed *sine die*. He has submitted projects for filling up the Tarsus lagoon, between Tarsus and the sea, for embanking the river of Adana, for shortening it, for draining the plain, for draining the marshes near Sefefkia, and for several roads, and a variety of other projects which are continually being called for. He spends his time rushing about at the beck and call of the Vali, but there is little as yet to show for his labours. The road to the interior via the Kulek Boghaz, has made some progress by forced labour, and could soon be made practicable for wheels. There is, however, no money apparently to construct a few bridges, although the tolls sold this year for 122,000 piastres (£ T. 1,000 nearly). As an instance of how things are managed, I may mention that, under the auspices of a certain Hadji Bey, the direction of the road has been changed about four hours from Tarsus, and the work has now nearly stopped because people will not come forward to work through about 2 miles of nearly solid rock. As soon as I saw the place I asked the Vali to send the Chief Engineer to report on what they were doing, but he had agreed to the alteration, as he had been told it would save bridges, and I found that the Engineer had never been consulted, and knew nothing about it, and that it was quite contrary to his plan. There was no difficulty in avoiding the rocky portion, but simply, I expect, to serve Hadji Bey's interests this job has been committed. It is a great pity, as some good work has been done. It is very important that the Konieh authorities should be ordered to continue this road upwards from the Ak-Kupru (bridge), just above Boyanti; there the Adana Vilayet ceases, and the road stops in the heart of the Taurus, and, up to the present, I do not think even the route has been selected—certainly no work has been done. Unless it is continued the work in this vilayet will be nearly useless.

Lately they have been working on the road from Karatash to Adana. This was commenced by Zia Pasha in 1879, but a good deal has been washed away since then by floods.

Two arches of the bridge over the Zeihan, at Missis, were washed away last summer, and they are now repairing it, and they are also repairing a bridge near Karatash. A slender embankment has been thrown up on the right side of the Seihoon, from Adana southwards, to protect the gardens and the Vali's farm from inundation. This was done by forced labour. An attempt has also been made by digging two parallel canals to divert the course of the Seihoon above the town towards the bridge; at present the river threatens to pass to the westward of the town. The Engineer's project was not accepted in this case, and it is little likely that what has been done will do any good.

The long talked-of repairs to the Adana and Mersina main road have been commenced, I am glad to say. The road was completed about seven years ago, since which hardly anything has been done to it, although the tolls sell for something like £ T. 1,500. Stone culverts have been replaced with rough hoardings from time to time, and these in turn have rotted away, leaving great gaps. It is quite impossible to drive over it at night. Now, however, it is to be put in good order.

The railway scheme from Mersina to Adana has been abandoned so far as the Vali is concerned; the Porte could not believe that a light line could be constructed for about 40,000*l.*, and refused permission; but the matter has been taken up by several parties, and I believe M. Tiano expects to get the concession for an ordinary gauge railway, costing about 150,000*l.* The Vali has been requested to report on it, and will, no doubt, favour the scheme. Of course a large railway will be preferable, and with good management will, I think, pay.

The story of the supposed treasure at Tarsus with which M. Tiano was connected, and of the excavations, as told by the "Levant Herald," is correct, and affords a good idea of the gullibility or superstition of the Sultan. Orders have now been received appointing Reshad Bey, ex-Mutessarif of Kozan, guardian of the supposed treasure

(£ T. 40,000,000), an unsalaried appointment which he was loth to accept, as he was afraid that he might be accused hereafter of having made away with it.

150,000 piastres has recently been granted for public works.

There can be no doubt that there is less brigandage in the district than formerly; I have, however, a few serious cases to mention. Mr. Montgomery, an American missionary, and party, were robbed by seven armed Circassians in daylight in the Bagtche Pass last May; four of the robbers were subsequently arrested in Sivas Vilayet, and some horses were recovered; these men have not yet been sentenced, but their trial is proceeding slowly. The Greek Bishop and his party were also robbed by Circassians last September, near Adana; the robbers are in prison, awaiting trial. About two months ago some Circassians entered the village of Ajemli, and killed an Armenian and did other damage. They belonged to the party who were wrongfully settled there after the Russian war. Sir H. Layard took up the question, and the Christians were eventually reinstated, and the Circassians turned out. I presume an ill-feeling arose therefrom. The murderers have been apprehended and handed over to the Marash authorities for justice. There has been a riot between the Telikhanli and Delikhanli Kurds in the Islahia Caza of the Jehel Beuket Sandjak. These tribes are always on bad terms. I believe, in this instance, the quarrel arose about some cattle stealing. The Mutessarif of Jehel Beuket and the Mutessarif of Marash, with troops, quelled the disturbance, which was, I believe, never very serious. A strange story reaches me of the Trappist priests at Aghes, in the same sandjak. It appears that one of their number was attacked by robbers, who took away two horses, but not until the reverend gentleman had shot dead one of the robbers. No one knows anything about this here, so I presume it occurred in the Aleppo Vilayet.

There is a good deal of cattle-lifting going on in some districts; much, however, I am convinced is not reported; nor is this to be wondered at, considering the measures which are adopted to put it down. When a district gets a bad name, the Akai Bey or Bimbashi are ordered out with their zaptiehs; they scour the locality and do what they like, *i.e.*, line their pockets. On one occasion about 150 men were sent in to Adana to the prison, and no doubt treble that number only escaped by bribing the officials, and I hear, on good authority, that there had been very few robberies in that district. A Commission was appointed to examine into the affair, and in about three weeks not a man was left in prison and none were tried; there was no proof against them, they paid something, probably, and were let out. There have been three or four of these raids; in fact, I think they are looked upon as perquisites by the zaptieh force. The Akai Bey and Bimbashi both bear the worst characters for corruption. The latter has been recently removed to Selifkia as a punishment; his pay will be less, and his opportunities greater.

There have been several changes of officials in the Justice Department: a new Cadi, not yet known, but who appears not up to his work, and a new election for the Court of Appeal, some of whom have yet to prove themselves corrupt. The Mufettish bears a good reputation, but, as I have said, has no power; he seems rather slack to my mind, perhaps hopeless expresses it better. The Mudaiomoum is quite a new man; his predecessor, Fehmi Bey, became too bad, and the Vali got rid of him by forcing him to resign, threatening proceedings against him, yet, instead of being degraded, he receives a similar appointment at Sivas at once. The Mudiomoum Mouavin is also a new man, and very badly spoken of; the Vali has his eye upon him, and intends to get rid of him as an opportunity occurs. By the influence of the Vali a new man has been appointed to the important office of Mustantik ("Examiner of Witnesses"), an Armenian, who is said to be tolerably straight so far, but as yet he has not made much impression on the great accumulation of business in his department. The work is terribly behindhand in several of the Courts, especially the Cadis. Many of the prisoners declare they have been in prison over six months without any investigation; the Vali, however, denies this, and says he looks into it himself, and it cannot be so. On the whole, I think I may say that there has been a slight improvement in the Justice Department during the last year; but still it is difficult to imagine anything much worse.

There is no improvement in the *morale* of the police force, nor in their organization; they have, however, been partially clothed, and, as a rule, their pay is only about three or four months in arrear.

The harvest this year did not turn out quite so well as was expected, on account of the unusually hot summer, the thermometer in August reaching as high as 106° Fahrenheit in the shade, and the sesame crop was a partial failure. The tithes of about half the vilayet were sold, the rest collected in kind; those that were sold fetched about three

times as much as last year when they were collected in kind; altogether the tithes are expected to realize about £ T. 90,000; no doubt, had all been sold, £ T. 120,000 would have been collected. This winter has been unprecedented in the scarcity of rain; up to the 31st January there had been hardly any, and prices of corn advanced one-third; now, however, rain has fallen.

They are talking of erecting a National College at Adana, for all sects, at a cost of £ T. 2,500, to be raised by subscriptions; the Porte has authorized the work and will supply teachers; the money is being collected, and a site has been chosen. They have introduced French into the Rushtié (Turkish) school, and the master reports well of the progress. The Armenian schools have languished somewhat owing to the death of the Inspector, the attendance is considerably less than last year. The Protestants are vigorous and are building a new church, the money having been granted by the American Missionary Society. The Armenian Catholic youth have started a society (Imasdassiratz) "Lovers of Science," the object being to afford an improved system of education; the [*sic*] praiseworthy, but their funds are low; the instruction is purely secular, and they profess to be actuated solely for the benefit of the Armenian nation. There are about fifty boys and thirty girls at present; three Armenian Sisters of Charity manage the latter.

A Jesuit priest has taken up his abode in Adana, sent by the Pope; he also will start a school as soon as he has learned the language a little and authority has been obtained.

At Aghes, an out-of-the-way place on the east side of the Giour Dagh, some Trappists have established themselves, and I hear a large establishment is in process of formation; there have been some Lazarist priests there for some years.

There has been an unusual inrush of outsiders to the plain this winter; besides the Circassian horses from Azizieh and the Avshar flocks and herds, great numbers of sheep and goats from the Angora Vilayet have come down; it was reported in the interior that the winter would be very severe, hence the exodus.

On the whole, then, I have no doubt that the Adana Vilayet will compare favourably with any vilayet. Abédine Pasha, though I consider he might do more without jeopardizing his position, is governing satisfactorily for Turkey; what he says is: "I can get rid of bad men but I cannot appoint new ones, and the chances are so much in favour of my getting as bad or worse men than those I get rid of, that I prefer trying to reform my own officials gradually." Perhaps the greatest compliment I can pay him is to say that no one speaks well of him.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FERDINAND BENNET, *Lieutenant, R.E.*

No. 48.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received March 6.)

(No. 128.) *Constantinople, February 22, 1882.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch from Sir C. Wilson, drawing my attention to the action of the Ottoman Government in respect to the Relief Committee at Angora, and to the bad prospects for next year.

I have called the attention of the Sublime Porte to the latter part of this despatch.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 48.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir C. Wilson to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 2.) *Adalia, February 11, 1882.*

My Lord,

I HAVE recently received copies of Mr. Vice-Consul Gatheral's despatches Nos. 131 and 132 to your Excellency respecting the existing distress and famine in the Angora Sandjak; and, in drawing attention to the action of the Turkish Government with regard to the Relief Committee, I would beg to point out that a somewhat

similar course was pursued at the time of the great famine a few years ago. On that occasion the existence of famine, or even of any unusual distress, was persistently denied, and efforts were made to turn aside the relief that was offered.

When I was at Angora, in June last, it was evident to every one that, unless timely steps were taken to import grain, there would be famine in the winter. The Vali, and every official I spoke to on the subject, was fully aware of this, and I had every reason to hope that some arrangements would be made to meet the threatened distress. Unfortunately, as Mr. Gatheral's despatches have informed your Lordship, nothing was done, and the Local Government has afforded another instance of that extraordinary callousness and indifference which Turkish officials invariably display when there is any suffering amongst the people they govern.

I regret to state that the accounts which I have received during the last two months from various parts of the country lead me to believe that very great distress, if not actual famine, may be expected to prevail this year over more than half the Anatolian plateau.

I have frequently drawn attention to the gradually-increasing poverty of the peasantry, in consequence of losses during the late war, the presence of locusts, and the oppressive manner in which the taxes are collected by the Local Governments. The Anatolian peasant is so simple in his habits, and requires so little to sustain life, that it is difficult to say when distress and scarcity will pass into actual famine and starvation; but there are not wanting signs to indicate that the limit of endurance has almost been reached. Should a long, cold spring follow the present winter, I fear there will be famine on a large scale.

Even in some districts on the south coast of Anatolia, which I have recently visited, the villagers are leaving their homes and wandering off in search of subsistence elsewhere; the only reason they give is, "We are too poor to live here."

I understand, too, that the peasants in many places are now only sowing enough wheat for their own consumption, and, as there is no large reserve of grain, any failure in the harvest will completely ruin them.

In presence of all this misery, the demand for money from Constantinople is as incessant and peremptory as ever, and the ingenuity of local Governors is constantly being taxed to raise the sums required from them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

No. 49.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received March 6.)

(No. 129. Confidential.)
Constantinople, February 22, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from Major Trotter, giving an account of an interview he recently had with the ex-Armenian Patriarch Nerces with regard to his resignation, the "Journal d'Orient" of Vienna, and the question of the Sis Catholicate.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 49.

Major Trotter to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 5. Confidential.)
Constantinople, February 20, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAD a long interview on Friday last with the ex-Armenian Patriarch Nerces.

I gathered from what his Beatitude told me that in spite of continual pressure on the part of the Porte to induce him to withdraw his resignation, he had no present intention of doing so. The promises of the Porte have been so often broken that he puts no faith in them, and he has no desire to return to the Patriarchate where he is powerless to do good, and where he would only occupy a false position.

His Beatitude showed me a correspondence that had recently taken place between the editor of the "Journal d'Orient," of Vienna, and himself, in which the former had written to ask for information as to the line of policy recommended by the Patriarch, and stated that, if necessary, he could keep a secret. The Patriarch's reply was that he had no secrets to keep, that he had thought highly of the early numbers of the "Journal d'Orient," but that latterly they had gone on to the wrong road, and were, by their foolish attacks on the Sovereign and Ministers of Turkey, doing more harm than good to the Armenian cause, especially as it was on His Majesty the Sultan and his enlightened Minister, Said, that the Armenians now entirely relied. What the Armenians hoped for was administrative autonomy under the Sultan and security for life and property. The letter was signed Archevêque Nerès.

My impression is that his Beatitude is ignorant of the movements referred to by Major Everett in his recent despatches from Erzeroum.

I gathered from his Beatitude that the question of the Sis Catholicos is by no means settled. It is true that the Sis Catholicos has made his formal submission to the Patriarch of Constantinople, but the Porte has not withdrawn the Firman giving separate jurisdiction which was conferred by Djevdet Pasha. It appears that the Armenians of Sis absolutely refuse to receive back their Catholicos, and have telegraphed to Constantinople to say so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

No. 50.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received March 6.)

(No. 132.)
Constantinople, February 23, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch addressed to Major Trotter by Major Everett, reporting that an Iradé from the Porte has been received by the local authorities to take a census of the Christian population with a view to their enrolment in the army.

This despatch contains some interesting observations upon the probable results of such a measure, and on the motive which had led the Ottoman Government to adopt it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 50.

Major Everett to Major Trotter.

(No. 1.)
Erzeroum, January 31, 1882.

Sir,

I BEG to inform you that an Iradé from the Porte was received on the 26th instant by the Local Government of this vilayet, ordering that a census of the Christians be immediately taken with a view to their participating in the conscription. Whether it is intended to consummate the object of the census and enrol the Christians in the ranks of the Ottoman army, or whether the order may be but a preliminary measure to ascertain the sentiments of the population and only to be executed according to circumstances, if at all, is at present an open question and one on which there is some difference of opinion. What is certain is that the preparation of the census will be commenced immediately, and that officials are being already dispatched into the districts for the purpose.

The question is one of great importance. Theoretically speaking the privilege embodied in this measure, viz., that of allowing to the Christians a share of the honour of bearing arms in the defence of the country, is so great that it might be fairly supposed that no other modification of the existing state of things would be as likely to produce social equality between the races. A closer examination of the question will, however, show it to be an exceedingly complicated one, and, in the opinion of those who profess to understand the feelings of the people concerned, very far from producing the results so much hoped for unless it be treated in a less arbitrary manner than that indicated in the recent Order of the Porte.

That the Christians have no desire to enter the Turkish service I have learnt over and over again from their own mouths. The reasons urged in support of this objection are:—

1. That their social position among the Turkish soldiery would be intolerable.
2. That there being no protection for them in the upper ranks, they would be treated with gross injustice.
3. That their chances of advancement would be infinitesimally small.

That the position of the Christian soldiers in the ranks of the Ottoman army would be almost insufferable, is hardly to be doubted. It is among the Turkish peasantry, from whose ranks the soldier is mainly recruited, that the most earnestly religious Mahommedans are to be found: men holding strictly to the tenets of the Koran as expounded to them by their village Mollahs, men really believing in their absolute superiority over the Christian and in their right either to appropriate his goods or to force him to provide for their immediate wants. Though no blame can be attached to the Turkish soldiery for holding these views, as well as many others tending to increase their patriotism and support them amid trials and under circumstances such as no soldier of any other country would quietly endure, they are not exactly those calculated to produce in the breast of the Christian a superabundance of affection for his Moslem comrade, from whom it is certain he will receive every sort of abuse, and by whom he will be made to perform every kind of menial duty.

Without support in the higher ranks, too, there can be no redress for these evils, no mitigation of these hardships, and if no provision should be made for subsequent promotion, or being made is not honestly adhered to, it is clear that this undesirable state of things will be maintained. There seems, then, to be some ground for the dislike the Christian has of entering the Turkish service, a dislike, it may be observed, quite apart from any disinclination to bear arms.

But if such is likely to be the bearing of the Moslem soldiers to the Christians in general, a bearing originating only and entirely from strong religious feeling, what conduct may be expected towards Armenian conscripts drawn from the eastern portion of this vilayet? Here are a set of men hitherto considered almost in the light of traitors, men who showed, or whose fathers showed, a strong sympathy with the natural enemy of the country during the last war, who retired when they retired and advanced when they advanced. That there must be a strong repugnance among the Turkish soldiery to receive them at all is only natural, while among the Christians who inhabit these districts the Edict now about to be promulgated cannot fail to cause both consternation and dismay. It is impossible, therefore, to await otherwise than with anxiety the next instructions, and in the meanwhile to hope earnestly that the decision which the Porte appears to have arrived at may receive further consideration before active steps are taken in the matter.

Although the objections above alluded to are fully realized by the Chiefs, who acknowledge besides the necessity of many other provisions, such as the erection of chapels in the barracks, the right of the clergy to attend the sick, the observance of Sunday, &c., questions into which it is at present too early to enter, yet they are not likely, so far as I can learn, to complain. On the contrary, with the Gregorians at least, there seems even a desire to encourage the people to submit quietly, in spite of the indignities they may have to endure. If, therefore, the people accept without demonstration or complaint the present decision, it will be merely a sign that they are under good discipline, and must not by any means be construed into an acceptance, either from preference or from the hope of bettering their social position. The former does not exist, nor can the latter be obtained in such a manner.

Looking at the question from the side of the State, there seems to be no advantages in the scheme to counterbalance the defects. Briefly, it entails a loss of revenue amounting in this vilayet alone to about 1,500,000 piastres per annum, in exchange for which the Porte obtains a number of men who, to say the least of it, could hardly be expected to make very reliable soldiers. If it should be the real desire of the Porte to amalgamate the other nationalities of the Empire with the existing army, the better method would be to encourage, for at least five years, volunteers to enter the service, with admission to the military schools, and with promotion guaranteed to those deserving it, before commencing any conscription—a system, in fact, somewhat analogous to that in force at present in Russian Armenia, where there are a number of highly-trained Armenian officers, but no conscription. By such means a taste might (I do not say it would) spring up among the Christians in this country for service in the Turkish army, but it certainly will not be produced in any other way.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

No. 51.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 6.)

(No. 140.) *Constantinople, February* 27, 1882.
My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 128 of the 22nd instant on the subject of the actual distress and threatened scarcity in the western and southern portion of Anatolia, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that Assim Pasha has assured me that the Government has already taken certain steps to avert the calamity in the direction of Angora.

His Excellency added that he would mention the subject to the Minister of the Interior, in order that the action of the Government may be extended to other districts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 52.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 6.)

(No. 148.) *Constantinople, February* 28, 1882.
My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 758, Confidential, of the 20th August last, I am happy to inform your Lordship that the Russian Ambassador here tells me that in consequence of my representations orders have been given to allow Ottoman subjects to cut wood in the Soghanli forest district of Bayazid as heretofore.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 53.

Earl Granville to Sir E. Thornton.

(No. 78.) *Foreign Office, March* 9, 1882.
Sir,

FROM the accompanying copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople,* your Excellency will perceive that the Turkish Government are anxious that the period within which the Lazes of the Batoum district will be allowed to emigrate may be extended into the summer, when the weather will be more favourable for their change of domicile.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 54.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 10.)

(No. 68.) *Rome, March* 7, 1882.
My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that, in compliance with the instruction contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 81 of the 28th ultimo, I have communicated to the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs a copy of the scheme of reforms for Armenia, as drafted by Sir Charles Wilson and Major Trotter, and as subsequently revised by Her Majesty's Ambassador and M. de Novikow, and submitted to and approved by the Representatives at Constantinople of the other Great Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

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* No 35.

No. 55.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 115.)
Foreign Office, March 10, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 128 of the 22nd ultimo, inclosing a copy of a despatch from Sir C. Wilson, in which that officer draws attention to the action of the Ottoman Government in respect to the Relief Committee at Angora, and to the bad prospects of the population of the Anatolian Plain should there be any failure in the harvest.

Her Majesty's Government approve your having brought this latter subject to the notice of the Porte.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 56.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 116.)
Foreign Office, March 10, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 67 of the 31st January, inclosing copy of one from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond, describing the state of disorder in that town, which he attributes to the lenity shown by the Courts of Justice to certain young and lawless Boys.

Her Majesty's Government approve your Excellency having brought this state of affairs to the notice of the Turkish Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 57.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received March 13.)

(No. 152.)
Constantinople, March 3, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copies of despatches which I have received from Mr. Biliotti on the subject of the Laz emigration from Batoum.

I would venture to call your Lordship's attention to the memorial from Laz Chiefs, inclosed in Mr. Biliotti's No. 9, complaining that the Russian Government have not acted in conformity with the Treaty of Berlin as regards landed property, in case you should think that a communication on the subject might be made to the Russian Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 57.

Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 9.)
Trebizond, February 13, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose translation of a memorial which was handed to me by Tsurooksooli Ali and Osman Pasha, and other twenty-three Laz Chiefs, for transmission to your Excellency.

The purport of the document in question is, that the Russian authorities at Batoum have not acted in conformity with the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin according to which the inhabitants of the ceded territory in Anatolia were to enjoy perfect freedom in disposing of their landed property before emigrating to Turkey.

The petitioners state that under different pretexts the sale of their lands was not allowed to take place before the 15th instant, the final date fixed for the emigration, and after the expiration of which no transfer of landed property is permitted.

The present question was raised on Tsurooksooli Ali and Osman Pasha attempting

to dispose of their extensive estates, but I hear from a friend at Batoum that it likewise affects thousands and thousands of emigrants, who would be reduced to utter destitution if the Ottoman law, which seems to have been admitted by the Russian Government as regulating the tenure of land in the ceded districts in Anatolia, should not be interpreted as it is in Turkey.

The objections of the Russian authorities at Batoum bear on three principal points.

First, that title-deeds of lands having originally belonged to the State ("Arazi-Miriè") are only temporary titles having value so long as the lands are cultivated, but that the latter revert to the State if they are left in fallow for three consecutive years.

This is true to a certain extent, though the term of three years is not absolute, and depends on the nature of the land and circumstances, but it is specially provided by the Ottoman law, that from this provision are excepted lands situated in a part of the country where war may be raging until it assumes again its normal condition. And no doubt can be entertained that the lands in the lately ceded territory to Russia are, since the year 1877, in this exceptional category just mentioned.

Second, that should ever this difficulty be overcome, such title-deeds will only be recognized, as have been registered in the defters of the Sandjaks of Lazistan, which have been handed to the Russian authorities on the transfer of Batoum, and are now in the hands of a special Commission. But it should be borne in mind that the regular registration of title-deeds in the sandjaks was only enforced in the year 1278, and that the greater part of the land is held under "attic seneds" (old title-deeds), or under "tapous," anterior to that year, which have never been entered in the sectional registers now in the possession of the Commission, and that, according to the principle put forward, only those who have had occasion to purchase lands within the last twenty years will be recognized as proprietors.

Third, that lastly, there is the question of the extent of the estates. But there are very few, if any, title-deeds in Turkey containing the exact measurement of each property. The extent of the estate has been more or less arbitrarily fixed by the interest or ignorance of the vendor or the purchaser and the registrar. But it is certain that there can be no land belonging to the State between two estates bordering on each other; there can only be a contestation between the two land-owners with regard to the limits of their respective properties.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure 2 in No. 57.

Memorial from the Laz Chiefs to the Earl of Dufferin.

(Translation.)

AS it is known, the right to sell their landed property and emigrate to Turkey within a fixed period was granted by the Treaty of Berlin to the inhabitants of the districts ceded to Russia. Under these circumstances intended emigrants should have enjoyed perfect freedom in disposing of their estates. But the local authorities at Batoum raised difficulties, and the Russian Government appointed a Commission to verify the title-deeds of land-owners in the town as well as in the villages. They were invited to appear, and were promised that, after examination, their tapous should be recognized.

In consequence of this promise many of the intended emigrants did not remove, but waited for the promised verification of the title-deeds.

The said Commission having always resided at Batoum could examine only the title-deeds of a few villages, allowing time to pass, which caused numerous complaints on the part of the interested parties.

At last the Commission declared that intended emigrants might depart, as no permission would be granted to sell landed property in the villages, and that only the lands in the town of Batoum could be disposed of.

In consequence thereof intended purchasers withdrew their offers, and some inhabitants of Livanah who had already sold their landed property were imprisoned and compelled to reimburse which they had received a year before in exchange of their estates.

This proceeding is not in conformity with the Treaty of Berlin, in which no special mention being made of the lands in the town; permission is, therefore, granted to sell, without distinction between landed property in the town and in the villages.

Under these circumstances, we addressed petitions, through the Ottoman Consul, to the Russian authorities at Batoum, as well as to Sub-Inspector-General Molikoff, which were transmitted to St. Petersburgh and Tiflis.

The answer received was only communicated to the competent functionaries. But

it would seem that its purpose was, that foreign subjects were not allowed to hold landed property in the district of Batoum, while the slight hope was held out to us that, as it had been done at Kars and Ardahan, the Russian Government would purchase our landed property on their own estimation; but even this was not executed.

The stipulations of a Treaty cannot be altered under any pretext whatever.

According to the clauses of the Treaty of Berlin, permission was granted to sell landed property in the ceded territory, and though the Russian authorities appeared at first to consent to the execution of this stipulation, they subsequently prevented by throwing difficulties in the way. A Government who have signed a Treaty cannot alter its stipulations, though they may be opposed to their interest. So it is that the Ottoman Government, after having executed all the clauses of the Treaty of Berlin, which were very prejudicial, are about to arrange also for the payment of the indemnity of war. Supposing even that the answer of Grand Duke Michel be the one which was stated above, its dispositions are not in conformity with right and justice, as the stipulations of a Treaty are binding for all contracting parties. The Russian Government exact the strict execution of the Articles of the said Treaty which are in their favour, while they exclusively act in favour of their interest in the question of the scale of the estates of the emigrants.

The Russian authorities have, besides, raised the objection that these lands being "Arazi-Mirié," must, according to the Ottoman law, revert to the State; but, far from there being in the fore-mentioned Treaty any word to which a similar interpretation can be given, it is stated on the contrary that intended emigrants are perfectly free to sell their landed property, and, according to the Ottoman law, one can give, mortgage, or otherwise dispose of his "Arazi-Mirié" without other obligation towards the Government but to pay the tithe and nothing else; so much so, that even if the Government were in need of a plot of ground, they cannot take possession of it without paying to its lawful owner the full price of its value.

In all countries every one has a right to possess lands, as foreigners are also entitled to purchase and dispose of landed property in Turkey.

Under these circumstances, the steps taken by the Russian authorities are erroneous and of no value, as it is against the Law of Nations to prevent, under different pretexts, individuals to enjoy the free possession of their landed property. Besides, our country has not been subjected by the force of arms, but even so our individual rights cannot be sacrificed to the interest of the belligerent Governments.

Notwithstanding that the inhabitants of the districts of Ardahan and Kars had verbally declared that they would abandon their landed property and emigrate to Turkey, still, at the time of their departure, the Russian Government paid them the price mentioned in their title-deeds as the value of their property. However, even so, they have not been fairly treated, for by a special favour of the Imperial Ottoman Government, lands worth 10,000 piastres are only registered for 1,000, and generally when lands are sold either to the Government itself or to private individuals, the value paid is not that stated on the tapous, but the price agreed between the parties, as otherwise all sales would inflict a loss on all vendors.

As it results from our statement the main question appears to be the sale of the landed property of the emigrants, but the difficulties raised by the Russian authorities have only had for object to prevent them from departing from Russia.

The Russian Government have endeavoured by this, means, and by showing great courtesy and friendship to the Beys of the Lazistan, to prevent emigration, but having a great devotion and reverence for the Imperial Ottoman Government, and knowing its liberality and justice, a great part of us has emigrated to Turkey, leaving at a future period the settlement of the question of the landed property.

We therefore protest against the Russian authorities at Batoum begging and asking that justice be rendered to our lawful rights, which have not been taken into consideration by the said authorities, and fully believing in his praiseworthy desire to protect justice, we have also recourse to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

(Signed) MEHMED ALI.
His Brother OSMAN.
DEDEBEYZADÉ YAHIA.
SANDJAKBEYZADÉ MOHAMED SALIH.
HAMDYBEYZADÉ HAMDI.
MEHMEDBEYZADÉ ALI.
SULEYMANBEYZADÉ AHMED NOORI.
KAZANZADÉ MAHMOUD.
(And seventeen Vékils of the Lazes.)

28 *Kianoun Sani*, 1297 (*9th February*, 1882).

Inclosure 3 in No. 57.

Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 10.) *Trebizond, February* 18, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that the Ottoman transports "Assyr" and "Mevludi-Nusret" called here the first on the 14th instant, the second yesterday, with, respectively 625 and 1,640 Laz emigrants on board. Of these, only 210 were landed here, the remainder being conveyed part to Unieh and to Samsoun; and the greater number to Constantinople.

It would seem that the Russian authorities at Batoum having insisted on the emigrants on board the "Assyr" being re-landed in order that their passports should be re-examined, the Turkish Captain refused to comply with the request. Thereupon the Russians refused to grant a bill of health, and the "Assyr" departed without one, the local authorities protesting against this proceeding.

These emigrants are the last who, in force of the Treaty of Berlin, are allowed to depart from the districts ceded to Russia, the term fixed for the exodus of Lazes having expired on the 15th instant, an event which was celebrated by the authorities at Batoum by the firing of volleys of artillery.

According to a letter which I have received from Batoum, and dated the 15th instant, which I inclose in copy, it would appear that more Lazes would have lately emigrated had it not been for the severity of the winter, the want of boats on the Tsorook, and the obstacles thrown in the way by the local authorities, and that it is expected that many may still cross the frontier from time to time.

I understand from the Vali of Trebizond that all the Lazes who managed to reach the sea-shore on the 15th instant were embarked on board the "Mevludi-Nusret."

It is stated that the Russian Government, in order to prevent emigration, promised the Beys of the Lazistan, whose example was expected to be followed by the inhabitants at large, a gratuity of 100*l.*, and a monthly pension of 9*l.* each, but that not only these Beys declined the offer, but also that those who had already received money from the Russian Government returned it and departed.

According to the computation of Tsorooksooli Ali and Osman Pasha, the total number of Lazes who emigrated to Turkey by sea amounts to 80,000 souls, and overland to 40,000, and of those who still remain in the ceded districts to 80,000.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure 4 in No. 57.

Letter addressed to Consul Biliotti.

Batoum, le 15 Février, 1882.

J'AI attendu le dernier moment pour pouvoir vous annoncer le nombre des Mouhadjirs qui s'embarquent aujourd'hui sur le dernier bateau envoyé par le Gouvernement Turc, mais il sera impossible de le constater exactement.

Ces pauvres diables se sont fait inscrire depuis plusieurs semaines déjà pour le départ, mais entre la chasse, la neige, le manque de bateau sur le Tchoroûk, et les entraves jetées sur leur chemin par les petits employés, s'il faut croire ce que disent les Mouhadjirs eux-mêmes, un petit nombre seulement a pu arriver à temps et cependant d'après les apparences il y en aurait plusieurs mille. C'est une procession d'arrivages depuis ce matin par terre et par mer.

Le Gouverneur est déterminé à ne pas prolonger le délai, de sorte que ceux qui ne seront pas embarqués ce soir seront considérés comme sujets Russes et traités en conformité. Cela, cependant, et le mince cordon de la frontière n'empêchera pas ces enfants de la montagne de passer en Turquie en temps opportun, avec armes et bagages.

Si les Mouhadjirs trouveront leur bonheur en émigrant reste à être prouvé, mais ce qui est un fait, c'est que le pays abandonné souffrira beaucoup de cette émigration qu'on n'a pas su conjurer. Ce sera un troisième désert qui fera suite à la Circassie et à l'Abbasie, avec cette différence, que Batoum (le port) gagnera énormément et fatalement aussitôt que le chemin de fer de Bakou-Tiflis-Batoum aura fonctionné. Et tout cela au dépens de la Turquie, au moins pour ce qui regarde la Perse et la Haute-Arménie, car cette dernière sera aussi jointe à Batoum par Kars.

No. 58.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received March 13.)

(No. 159.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 6, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from Sir Charles Wilson reporting on his journey from Mersina to Adalia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 58.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir C. Wilson to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 4.)
My Lord, *Adalia, February 20, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Excellency some remarks on the country visited during my recent journey from Mersina to this place.

At Mersina, the spurs of the Taurus Mountains begin to approach the coast, and at Lamas the great Cilician plain comes to an end. The soil is rich, and in the vicinity of Mersina there is a considerable amount of land under cultivation, but 6 miles to the westward the ground is only cultivated near the small scattered villages, and there is much low brushwood. The villagers are Bakhshishli Turkomans, who were settled about twelve years ago by Khalil Pasha; there is also a small nomad population of Koyunju Yuruks, who migrate to the mountains in summer.

The road from Lamas to the plain of Selefké passes over low hills of very hard limestone; it is now a mere track over the bare rock, but many traces of the Roman paved road remain, and in places the pavement is quite perfect. There is abundant evidence that the ground was at one time well cultivated and supported a large population. Traces of ancient terrace culture are visible everywhere, and a large proportion of the brushwood consists of wild olive and carob trees.

For about 10 miles the road is bordered on either side by tombs and ruins of all ages—Greek, Roman, Byzantine, Armenian, and Venetian. The ruins include many small towers or castles, which probably served as places of refuge for the pirates who at one time infested the country, and who found convenient shelter for their galleys in the numerous small bays, with sandy beaches, which form such a marked feature of the coast-line.

I understand that the Turkish Government propose to reopen the old port at Ayash, and that a survey has recently been made with that object.

A good harbour could easily be made for coasting craft and very small steamers, but there are no roads, no commerce to develop, and the only inhabitants are Tirtar Yuruks, who live under tents or in the tombs and ruins.

The plain of Selefké, or delta of the Guk Su (Calycadnus), contains much good arable land, but only a small portion of it is cultivated. During his recent visit to Selefké the Vali, Abédine Pasha, purchased about 10,000 dunums of marsh land on the plain, and as I passed a number of Kurds from Diarbekir were opening an old canal which formerly drained the marsh. A scheme has also been prepared for irrigating the plain from the Guk Su, and work is to be commenced in the summer. The valley of the Guk Su is the natural outlet for the trade of Karamania, and a project has long been formed for making a road from Selefké to Karaman viâ Mút; nothing has, however, yet been done. The pass over the Taurus is comparatively low and easy, and it is rarely blocked by snow in winter. There are two small Greek villages on the plain, and several villages of Jehel, Bakhshishli, and other Turkomans on the plain and at the edge of the hills.

Selefké itself is a small town built out of the ruins of Seleucia; it is the seat of a Mutessarif, and chief town of the Itch-Ili Sandjak. There are a few Greek families employed as merchants or shopkeepers, and some wealthy Turkish merchants engaged in the timber trade. The port of Selefké, Tash Scala, is only an open roadstead; a steamer of Bell's line calls once a fortnight, but the principal trade is with Beyrout and Egypt, and carried on by means of coasting craft. The exports are timber, wheat, sesame, and cotton of inferior quality.

The country between Selefké and the plain of Alaya is exceedingly rough, and the road passes over a succession of high spurs which run out into the sea as bold

headlands. The only places of any importance are Kilindria, which has a small trade with Cyprus, and Chorak, the chief town of the Anamúr Caza.

In this district, too, there are many traces of ancient terrace culture; wild olive and carob trees are very common, and in one place a local name preserves the memory of vineyards of which there is now no other trace. The former prosperity of the country is attested by the number of important Greek cities which at one time flourished on the coast. The only cultivation at present is in the valleys which break through the mountains; in some of these large farms are worked by local Beys, who supply the villagers with ploughs, oxen, and seed, and receive half profits in return. The principal trade is in timber, which is cut in the mountains and floated or carried down to the mouths of the rivers, whence it is exported to Cyprus, Beyrout, Alexandria, Port Saïd, and the Greek islands.

There is also an export of pine bark and valonia. The district is thinly populated, and, except in the valley of the Selinti, there are few villages. At Kilindria and Chorak there are small Greek communities; there are also some Yuruk villages and many Turks, most of whom are land-owners or timber-merchants. A large proportion of the settled population is, however, descended from the people who occupied the country before the Turkish invasion.

The difference in feature and general appearance is very apparent among the villagers of the Selinti Valley, but it is most marked amongst those of the wild mountain tract north of Anamúr, where the people have been less exposed to extraneous influences. The type is decidedly Greek, and the peasants wear a peculiar dress which I have only seen elsewhere amongst the old Pontic Greeks in the mountains south of Samsún. The nomads of the district are Yuruks of various families, the principal being Tekkéli, Yanlishli, Eski, and Hadji Sakli.

The plain of Alaya is a narrow strip of level ground, about 11 miles long, lying between the mountains and the coast. The climate is good, the soil rich, and several streams supply abundant water for irrigation, yet with all these advantages there is little cultivation.

The people appear to have lost the art of cultivating the olive and carob; and even the oranges and lemons, for which Alaya has a reputation, have little care bestowed upon them. There are few places where the contrast between the past and the present is more painfully apparent. During the Venetian occupation the Province of Alaya must have been extremely prosperous, and this prosperity appears to have continued, through the Seljuk period, to the date when the Ottoman Turks finally established their rule. On the plain are the ruins of several large Latin or Venetian villages, and the manner in which every favourable site is occupied by buildings of this class is very remarkable. Now, even the modern villages are falling to ruin, and many of the peasants are leaving, going off, in search of work, to Adalia or Smyrna, or wandering away to seek subsistence as "muhajirs," or refugees, in other parts of the country. The cause of this misery is not far to seek; of the Redifs and Mustahfiz who were sent to Kars during the Russian war not a man or officer is said to have returned; locusts for five years in succession, Government pressure for taxes, and the enrolment of the Redifs last year, have done the rest.

The position of the town of Alaya, rising in terraces up the side of a high isolated hill, which is washed on three sides by the sea, is very striking. There are about 1,000 houses, of which 400 are Greek, and a roadstead which is fairly protected from the prevailing winds. A steamer of Bell's line calls once a fortnight, and the sea is said to be never so rough as to prevent landing. The principal exports are timber, pitch, beeswax, and sesame. Amongst the Moslem population are many wealthy Turks of Seljuk origin, who carry on business as timber merchants, and trade with Beyrout and Cyprus. The Kaimakam, who is a Moreote refugee, appeared to be a man of more than ordinary ability.

About 6 miles westward from Alaya the plain of Adalia commences. It is now sparsely populated and little cultivated, though it was once noted for its fertility, and contained within its limits the large towns of Ptolemais, Side, Aspendus, Sylleum, Perge, and Adalia. Most of the plain is covered with brushwood, in which the Yuruks of the Konieh Vilayet pitch their tents, and winter their camels and goats. The cultivated ground is largely owned by Turkish Beys, one of whom, Toizadé of Menavgat, is said to be the wealthiest man in Anatolia, and to have an annual rental of over 15,000*l*. The Greeks of Adalia also own several farms, and here, as in so many other places, land is gradually passing from the hands of the Moslems into those of the Christians. The peasants of the plain are fine, well-made men of non-Turk origin, but the type is slightly different from that of the Anamúr peasantry. The

winter nomad population of Yuruks is large. The three rivers, Menavgat Su, Kupru Su, and Ak Su, which find their way through the plain to the sea, afford great facilities for floating timber down from the mountains, and a large trade is carried on, from which the Government derives a minimum of profit.

Adalia is the chief town of the Tekké Sandjak, and seat of a Mutessarif. It has a population of about 14,000, of whom about 4,100 are Christian. There was formerly a small port, but it is now partly silted up, and can only be used by small coasting craft; the steamers, which come once a week from Smyrna, have to run for shelter to Porto Cavaliere, on the western shore of the gulf, when there is a strong south wind. There is a fair amount of commerce at Adalia, as it is the outlet for much of the produce of the Konieh Vilayet. The principal export is wheat, of which a million and a half kilés used to be exported annually. Latterly, however, owing to the swarms of locusts, the export has greatly fallen off, and in 1880 wheat had to be imported for the use of the people. I attach a Table of exports and imports which has been supplied to me by Mr. Keun, the British Vice-Consul at Adalia.

The Moslem population of Adalia consists of Seljuk and Ottoman Turks, the descendants of refugees who left the Morea after the Greek war, and the descendants of families which migrated from Egypt when it was occupied by the French at the close of last century. There is also a small negro colony, and a number of Algerines and Tunisians, who are registered as French subjects. The Christian population is almost wholly Greek. Though the town is on the sea-coast, and is in weekly communication with Smyrna, the people, Moslem and Christian, are ignorant, and show little energy or enterprise.

The Greeks of Adalia, and of the south coast as far as Mersina, with the exception of a few merchants and educated men, speak only Turkish, and even the priests, who perform Divine Service in Greek, do not understand what they read. The Greeks appear to have lost, with their language, that innate love of and zeal for education which is so characteristic of the Hellenic race. They are, as a rule, ignorant, illiterate, and opposed to education; their domestic life is devoid of all comfort, there is much drunkenness, and their habits and dress are thoroughly Oriental and Asiatic. The position of the Greeks was one of great misery until 1812, when the power of Tekké Oglu, the local Deré Bey, was broken by Mahmúd II. After the Greek war there was a slight awakening of the Hellenic spirit, but it appears to have soon died out, and to have shown no symptoms of revival until the Crimean war. Since that time there has always been a school in which Greek was taught, and the late war with Russia has been a new starting point.

There are now two schools for boys and two for girls, in which Greek is taught. The masters and mistresses have been educated at Athens, and, as far as I could judge, the education seemed to be good. The effect of this on the rising generation will be to stimulate enterprise, and to cause the abandonment of many of the barbarous customs that now prevail. Even as it is, there has been a great advance in material prosperity since the Crimean war. At that time the majority of wealthy merchants were Moslem, now they are Greek; no Christian then held land, now several Greeks have two or more farms.

The affairs of the Greek community are managed by a Council of twelve Notables, under the presidency of the Archbishop of Pisidia, who resides at Adalia. The Council settles quarrels between members of the community, acts to a certain extent as a Divorce Court, and sends cases to the local Turkish Courts or to the Patriarch, as may seem advisable. The schools are managed by a Committee of four or six; education is free, but the Committee have a monopoly of the wax used in the churches, which provides an income of 30,000 piastres per annum. The wax is bought at 20 piastres per oke, and sold again as candles at 60 piastres. Other funds are provided by an annual bazaar and a small theatre, which owe their origin to the exertions of Mr. Whittal, one of the staff of the Ottoman Bank at Adalia.

In conclusion, I would draw attention to two points which have lately come under my notice: the wasteful manner in which the timber trade is carried on, and the frauds in the custom-houses.

From time immemorial, Syria, Egypt, and some of the Greek islands have derived their supply of timber from the forests on the slopes of the Taurus, and they must always do so to a great extent in the future. The trade is one which, if properly fostered, might be increased, and bring in a large revenue to the Government; but it is carried on in the most recklessly wasteful manner, without any adequate return. The number of foresters is quite insufficient to guard the forests; large fires break out every summer, and no efforts are made to check their ravages; it is rare to see a

tree near the coast or near a road which has not been barked or burned, or partially felled; and little supervision is exercised over the lumber-men or merchants. It is not uncommon for a man who gets permission to cut 1,000 trees to fell 5,000. An effort has been made to check the barking of the trees by prohibiting the export of bark; the efficacy of this order may be gathered from the fact, which I have on good authority, that 65,000 kantars of bark were exported last year from the coast. From this the Government derived no profit. I may add that a large proportion of the woodcutters are Christian Bulgarians from Macedonia; they are considered much better lumber-men than the local peasantry.

It is well known that the Turkish Government does not receive the proper amount of revenue from the custom-houses throughout the country; and as the present system of levying the dues is prejudicial to the interests of British merchants, by enabling native merchants, who resort to bribery, to undersell them, it may be interesting to describe it. The frauds are effected in the following manner: supposing a native merchant wishes to land 10,000 cases of petroleum, the real value of which is 50 piastres per case. He goes in the first place to the Head of the custom-house, and, after a short conversation, is referred to the Cashier, who makes the final arrangements, and prepares the papers in due form.

The 10,000 cases are set down as 6,000, and the value at 30 piastres, instead of 50 piastres, per case; the Government thus receives only 8 per cent. on 180,000 piastres, instead of on 500,000 piastres. The plunder is divided between the merchant and the custom-house. The share of the latter goes into a stock-purse, kept by the Cashier, which is divided at the end of each month; the Head of the custom-house takes 40 per cent.; the Chief Clerk, 20; the Cashier, 10; and the minor officials, watchmen, porters, &c., the remaining 30 per cent. At one port I was assured that the stock-purse was never less than £T. 200 per month, and was sometimes as much as £T. 800.

It is evident that a British merchant who tries to deal honestly with the Turkish Government and the custom-house cannot compete against such a system.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 58.

Table of the Imports and Exports for the Year 1881 at the Port of Adalia.

Tonnage of Ships entered and cleared.

697 Sailing-Vessels of a total tonnage of 44,763 tons.

	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.
Ottoman	633	35,979
Greek	42	6,106
Russian	7	1,666
Jerusalemite	7	563
Samian	6	220
Austro-Hungarian	1	192
Italian	2	27
Total	697	44,763

107 Steamships of a total tonnage of 32,626 tons.

	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.
British	80	24,965
Greek	27	7,661
Total	107	32,626

MERCHANDIZE.

IMPORTS.

Names of Merchandize.	Designation.	Quantity.	Value £T. at 118 prs.
			Prs.
Wheat	Kilés of Constantinople	10,000	350,000
	"	3,000	60,000
Barley	"	12,000	264,000
Maize	Sacks	5,000	300,000
Flour	" " ..	5,000	2,000,000
Coffee	" " ..	10,000	1,700,000
Rice	" " ..	9,000	3,600,000
Sugar	" " ..	100	50,000
Pepper	" " ..	15,000	4,000,000
Soap	Okes	30,000	165,000
Olive-oil	Sacks and cases ..	800	120,000
Dried fruits	Okes	75,000	225,000
Wines and spirits	" " ..	800,000	480,000
Salt	" " ..	20	20,000
Tobacco and tumbeki	Bales	700	3,500,000
Hardware	Cases	1,400	10,400,000
Manufactured goods	Bales	550	1,050,000
Cotton yarn	" " ..	50	176,000
Worked leather	" " ..	15	15,000
Drugs	Cases	9,500	475,000
Petroleum	" " ..	25,000	75,000
Henna dye	Okes	200	160,000
Metals	Cases	6,000	240,000
Iron, in bars	Pieces	2,500	12,500
Small shot	Okes	150	12,000
Nails	Barrels ..		30,709,500

30,709,500 prs. = £T. 260,250 = £ sterling 230,918.

EXPORTS.

Names of Merchandize.	Designation.	Quantity.	Value £T. at 118 prs.
			Prs.
Cattle: oxen	Head	10,000	2,500,000
" sheep and goats	" " ..	20,000	1,000,000
Liquorice-wood	Quintals ..	20,000	1,320,000
Timber	Loads	120	2,100,000
Firewood	Quintals ..	100,000	800,000
Walnut-wood	Loads	1	240,000
Wheat	Kilés of Constantinople	8,000	280,000
	"	4,000	72,000
Barley	"	6,000	144,000
Dried peas	"	6,000	90,000
Tares (food for cattle)	"	1,000	900,000
Yellow wax	Quintals ..	65,000	650,000
Pine-bark	" ..	22,000	1,100,000
Sesame grain	Kilés	2,000	50,000
Poppy-seed	" ..	10,000	15,000
Yellow berries (Persian style)	Okes	500	4,000
Nutgalls	" ..	1,000	280,000
Uncarded wool	Quintals ..	2,000	40,000
Bones	" ..	40,000	560,000
Goat-skins	Pieces	10,000	20,000
Soapwort	Okes	6,000	420,000
Valonia	Quintals ..	1,000	20,000
Drugs	Okes	25,000	37,500
Black raisins	" " ..	100,000	44,000
Rags	" " ..	300	13,500
Ox-hides	Pieces ..		13,000,000

13,000,000 prs. = £T. 110,170 = £ sterling 101,562.

No. 59.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 13.)

(No. 160.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 6, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from Sir Charles Wilson, again calling attention to the evils arising from the constant drain of money from the provinces to Constantinople.

In giving the amount of the sums which have been sent to the capital from Sivas during the last sixteen months, Sir Charles Wilson shows that the residue is not sufficient to meet the expenses of the Local Government of the vilayet.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 59.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir C. Wilson to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 5.)

My Lord, *Adâlia, February* 21, 1882.

I HAVE frequently drawn attention to the evils arising from the constant drain of money from the provinces to the capital, and the following information with regard to Sivas may be of interest:—

The revenue of the Sivas Sandjak for sixteen months was about 12,192,991 piastres; and during this period 9,920,303 piastres was either sent to Constantinople, or paid in havalés to Osman Pasha, Djevdet Pasha, Dadian Effendi, and other high functionaries at the Porte.

This leaves only 2,272,688 piastres to meet the expenses of local government, the cost of the Courts of Law, the pensions of spahis and others, and the payment of havalés held by merchants and minor officials who have no interest at Stamboul. The result is that most of the officials, especially in the Department of Justice and in the zaptieh force, are from four to eight months in arrear of pay. These men have families to support and daily expenses to meet, for which they must find money. A few borrow from merchants at high rates of interest; the majority obtain money in a less creditable way.

It must be remembered that of the money sent out of the country none returns in the shape of expenditure on public works, and very little in other ways. The diminution of coin in circulation in Anatolia during the last few years is very marked, and so is the gradual disappearance of the silver coins which used to be commonly worn as ornaments by the peasant women.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

No. 60.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 13.)

(No. 161.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 6, 1882.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 494 of the 16th July last, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from Sir C. Wilson, reporting upon locusts in Anatolia and the best means of destroying them.

I also inclose an interesting Memorandum on the same subject by Mr. C. Hardinge.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 60.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir C. Wilson to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 6.)

My Lord, *Adâlia, February* 21, 1882.

ANATOLIA has suffered so much from locusts during the last few years, and there is still so much ignorance with regard to their habits and the best means of

destroying them, that I venture to submit to your Excellency the following Report on the subject.

It is very difficult for any one who has not seen locusts to realize the incredible numbers in which they appear. For instance, at the Dardanelles, last year, 200 tons of egg-pods, representing 12,000,000,000 locusts, were collected; and at Angora 1,650 tons of young locusts were buried; yet, in either case, but a small proportion of the locusts was destroyed. In one place an experiment gave 20,000 eggs to a piece of ground 1 foot square, and if this be multiplied by miles the magnitude of the evil will be apparent.

The ravages of the locusts must also be seen before they can be appreciated; a locust army passes over a field of young wheat and leaves nothing behind it, and vine-yards, orchards, and kitchen-gardens are, in like manner, bared of everything green which they contain.

The steps taken by the local authorities to destroy the locusts have, as a rule, been quite inadequate. Often, in spite of peremptory orders from the Porte, nothing has been done until it was too late, and Mutessarifs and Kaïmakams have frequently neglected to carry out the orders of their superiors to collect eggs and destroy locusts.

The superstitious ignorance of the peasantry, worked upon, for their own ends, by greedy dervishes, and the dishonesty of many of the minor Government employés, have increased the difficulties of the situation. The dervishes at one time travelled through the country, telling the peasants that it was wrong to take the life of locusts, and persuading them that the only remedy was to purchase the water of a certain well in the Vilayet of Angora, which was supposed to act as a charm on the locusts.

To reassure the peasants it was necessary to procure a special fetva from the Sheikh-ul-Islam, authorizing the destruction of locust life; the prestige of the dervishes was, at the same time, lessened by the fact that an army of locusts consumed all their crops which lay round the holy well itself.

The action of the Local Governments has been somewhat as follows: in the egg stage the villagers have been compelled, by forced labour, to deliver a certain number of okes per head, or Government has purchased eggs at a fixed rate per oke, or the villagers have been obliged either to produce a certain number of okes of eggs or to make a money payment in lieu. In each case there has been great dishonesty amongst the minor officials; in the first, money has been taken from the villagers instead of eggs; in the second, eggs have been taken from the depôts and resold to the Government; and in the last, peasants who brought eggs to the Government konak have been beaten for not bringing money which could go into the pockets of the zaptiehs.

In the second, or young locust stage, the villagers have been turned out *en masse*, and obliged to collect the locusts by forced labour, or the Local Government has purchased the locusts at a fixed rate. In Angora, last year, the rate was one halfpenny for an oke of 2¾ lbs. The supervision exercised over the villagers has been very superficial; there has been no method in the system of collection; and the mems employed have been quite insufficient. In many places I have seen the superintendents asleep or smoking whilst long rows of men, women, and children were harnessly and languidly whipping the locusts with switches; in others, I have seen locusts swept into sheets, and afterwards so carelessly thrown into shallow pits that a large proportion escaped again; and in one place I noticed deep pits which the peasants had dug in the hope that the locusts would jump in and destroy themselves.

In only three instances have I heard of real attempts to destroy the locusts, and in each the success was great, if not complete.

In the first, Abédine Pasha, Vali of Adana, on the appearance of locusts west of Mersina, raised money by public subscription, and went down himself with over 3,000 men; he used petroleum to fire the brushwood, and never left the place until the locusts were so completely stamped out that they have never reappeared.

In the second, Said Pasha, the Vali of Konieh, persuaded the hojas and dervishes of Konieh to travel through the country and tell the people that the destruction of locusts, so far from being forbidden by the Koran, was a meritorious action. He also set a noble example himself, by going to the infested districts and working out his turn of forced labour like the simplest peasant in the vilayet. Said Pasha had great difficulties to contend with, as the carelessness of his predecessor had allowed the locusts to multiply, and the ground over a large area was thoroughly impregnated with eggs; he was energetically supported by Ali Riza Bey, the Refugee Commissioner, as well as by several local notables, and the result of his exertions was the collection of 2,500,000 okes of eggs in a single month.

In the other instance, Reshid Pasha, then Mutessarif of Bigha Sandjak, employed the soldiers and peasants at and near the Dardanelles to crush the young locusts with their feet by working in masses.

The following remarks and suggestions are chiefly the result of my own observation. The female locust deposits her eggs whilst in the flying stage; she softens the earth with a liquid which she secretes, and then buries herself up to the wings; in this position she deposits from sixty to ninety eggs in a thin sack, round which the mucous liquid hardens and forms, with the earth it had previously softened, a case which protects the eggs. Whilst depositing her eggs the female is covered, possibly for purposes of concealment, with other locusts, and this has given rise to the common idea that the males eat the females after they have laid their eggs. The locusts fly in dense swarms, and before laying cover the ground in long, irregular swathes which are often over a mile long, and from a few feet to more than 100 yards wide. It is generally supposed that the locusts only deposit their eggs in uncultivated ground on the hill-sides, but I have frequently seen freshly-hatched locusts on cultivated ground, and I think the most natural explanation is that the locusts are often carried by the wind against the sides of the hills, and lay their eggs where they alight. In this first, or egg stage, the egg-pods lie just below the surface of the ground, in long swathes, the general position of which is almost always known to the villagers or shepherds. This is the best period for waging war against the locusts, as the eggs remain in the ground from six to eight months before they begin to hatch, and most of the time is autumn and winter, when labour is cheap and easily procured.

In dealing with this stage I would propose the issue of a stringent order inflicting severe penalties on all Mukhtars who do not give notice of the deposition of eggs on or near the land of their respective villages. Notice of an egg deposit having been received, the Local Government should in the first place determine carefully the limits of the swathe, and then, commencing at one end, work the ground through, methodically. The labour might be either forced or paid, but it is absolutely necessary that it should be properly supervised, and that the eggs should be completely destroyed.

The second stage is when the eggs are hatched; the locusts are then the size of a very small fly; they hardly move at all for the first three or four days, and can be seen lying on the ground in long, dark swathes which completely hide the soil from view. At this stage the Mukhtars should be compelled to give immediate notice of the appearance of locusts to the Local Government, and also instructed to call out the villagers at once and commence the destruction of the locusts without waiting for further orders.

The Local Government should act energetically, and supply proper superintendence and additional labour.

The young locusts are quite helpless, and they should be swept into bags to be afterwards burned or buried in deep pits, or they might be stamped and rubbed out with the foot by large bodies of men acting in concert.

The third stage is when the locusts begin to move; the swathe now becomes an army, which marches either in column or line. I have never been able to determine the laws, if any, which direct the movement of the locusts in this stage, and have passed in one day five or six armies moving in different directions. The locusts march in close order, with very few stragglers at the sides of the columns, and nothing stops them. In a town it is not uncommon to see the houses, on one side of a street, covered with locusts marching onwards, whilst there is not a single locust on the houses opposite. When a stream is reached, the locusts, instead of turning aside, try to cross by skimming over the surface of the water, and many succeed, though thousands are drowned in the attempt. For the first week or ten days the locusts move slowly; they are young, weak, and quite torpid during the morning chill, and up to an hour and a-half after sunrise. During this stage the Local Governments should exert every effort to destroy the locusts by employing properly organized working parties under efficient supervision. In the first place, every advantage should be taken of the morning hours, when the sluggish locusts can be swept into sacks, and then, as the locusts warm up and begin to move, the head of the column should be attacked, if they are moving in that formation. The working parties should be deployed so as to cover more ground than the head of the column, and drawn up in double and triple rank, so as to catch locusts passing the first rank. They should be provided with locust-traps, or large bags of dull coloured material, with wide mouths kept open by a wooden frame. In this way, if a few careful men were employed on the sides of the column to drive the locusts on, they would of their own accord enter the traps and

bags. Attempts to break in on the centre of a column only result in the temporary dispersion of the locusts.

The fourth stage is when the locusts are strong, active, and the size of English grasshoppers. They still move in the same order, and should be attacked in the same manner, but they have become wary, and the work of destruction is far more difficult.

In the fifth, or flying stage, any attempt to destroy the locusts is useless; they fly in dense swarms, which often appear suddenly in districts where locusts have not hitherto been seen, and all that can be done is to try and prevent their settling on cultivated ground. The general tendency of the flying locusts appears to be to move northwards, in search of new ground in which to deposit their eggs, or to escape from their natural enemies.

In conclusion, attention may be drawn to these natural enemies of the locust. They are the parasite larva of the egg-pod, which produces a fly known as *Callostoma fascipennis*, the two parasites which infest the neck and body of the locust, and the locust-bird, or russet starling. The parasites have been carefully observed by Mr. Frank Calvert, of the Dardanelles, who has sent specimens, and communicated his observations to the Entomological Society. I believe he has also made suggestions to the Colonial Office as to the best means of propagating or introducing the parasites in Cyprus. In the first case the larvæ eat their way into the egg-pods, and rapidly grow into fat grubs; in the second, the parasites live on the locusts themselves, and kill them before they lay their eggs. To these last the sudden death and disappearance of the locusts in some parts of the country are due, and it is curious to notice in connection with this the widespread tradition that the locusts always disappear after seven years. I may add that I have seen the parasite of the egg-pod at Adalia, so that I hope the number of locusts in that province will not be so great this year.

The locust-birds follow the locusts in large flocks, which are almost as remarkable as the swarms of locusts. They are migratory birds, and appear suddenly in countless numbers; they establish themselves in the walls of the gardens and houses of villages, in old quarries, or in rocky hills, their instinct apparently leading them to select the centres of districts infested with locusts. They feed upon the locusts while they are in the marching stage, and also feed their young with them, but when the locusts begin to fly they merely kill them, without feeding on them. The locust-birds are very voracious, and kill many more locusts than they eat; and it is a pretty sight to see the quick manner in which they seize their prey on the ground. When the locusts are flying the birds dash through the swarms in the most extraordinary manner, seizing the locusts by the back of the neck, and killing them at one stroke.

Unfortunately the russet starling is omnivorous, and the manner in which he attacks grapes and other fruit almost counterbalances his use as a locust destroyer. The young birds especially do great damage to orchards and vineyards, and it is therefore a question how far it would be wise to introduce them into Cyprus.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 60.

Memorandum by Mr. Hardinge.

WITH reference to Colonel Sir Charles Wilson's despatch No. 6 of the 21st ultimo, giving a report of the recent ravages by the locusts in Anatolia, and the measures taken by the Turkish authorities to destroy them, I venture to submit to your Excellency the following extract of a private letter from Said Pasha, Vali of Konieh, which was communicated to me during my journey in Anatolia in September last:—

"The appearance of locusts in incalculable numbers in every part of the vilayet, and the thought that the destruction of crops, &c., which would certainly have followed had I not taken the necessary steps towards destroying them, afforded me no rest indeed. I set to work night and day to destroy them, and was successful at last in my endeavour to do so.

"You can form a faint idea of the number of these destructive creatures when I tell you that, within three months' time, we have destroyed 28,000,000 okes (34,000 tons) of these insects. This is no exaggeration; on the contrary, if I put down all the locusts that were destroyed in all the vilayet, double the amount of what I stated would come nearer the mark.

"I went to a place called Chamourly Ivet, and worked with the people for four days to destroy the locusts that were there. Imagine a plain of two and a-half by one and a-half hours in surface, covered with locusts 3 inches deep, and you will form an idea of the amount of them in *one* place.

"No wonder that the people were disheartened when they saw this awful sight; but perseverance conquered all, and the vilayet is saved (with insignificant damage), I am glad to say.

"It is calculated that, through the destruction of locusts, the vilayet saved at least 115,000,000 piastres; and now it is so pleasant to see the people offering up prayers for their deliverance from utter ruin.

"I hear from Angora that the crops of Angora are completely destroyed, the cattle dead, and the people are suffering from want of food."

(Signed) CHARLES HARDINGE.

Constantinople, March 4, 1882.

No. 61.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received March 13.)

(No. 162.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 6, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul-General in Anatolia, reporting that the notorious robber and murderer Kotanmak, with five of his accomplices, has recently been condemned to death by the Criminal Court of Adalia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 61.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir C. Wilson to the Earl of Dufferin.

No 8.)
My Lord, *Adalia, February 22, 1882.*

I HAVE great pleasure in informing your Lordship that Kotanmak, a well-known robber and murderer, has recently been condemned to death, with two of his brothers and three other accomplices, by the Criminal Court at Adalia.

The proceedings of Kotanmak, who was protected by a local Notable of Adalia, have been frequently described in Lieutenant-Colonel Stewart's despatches from this place (see Blue Book "Turkey No. 23, 1880," p. 50); and I have been informed by several persons that his arrest and trial have been in great measure due to the strong representations made by Lieutenant-Colonel Stewart to the Local Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

No. 62.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received March 13.)

(No. 163. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 6, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a despatch I have received from Mr. Henderson with regard to the religious disturbance that occurred lately at Aleppo. More importance appears to have been given to this incident than it deserved by the exaggerated reports in the "Levant Herald" newspaper.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 62.

Consul Henderson to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 2. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Aleppo, February 14, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency the occurrence of a disturbance between two soldiers and several Christians a short time ago. The disturbance in itself

was not of much importance, but the incorrect and sensational accounts of it which appeared in the "Levant Herald" provoked inquiries from the Grand Vizier. The Vali has ordered Colonel Briscoe to correct the misstatements in his telegrams, &c., and his Excellency informed me that he was obliged to make a show of great severity towards the Christians, as, unfortunately, so much publicity had been given to the matter that the Sultan had heard of it.

It appears that two soldiers had lost some money at cards to two Christians, and while they were quarrelling a Christian funeral happened to pass. The soldiers, irritated and excited, used very insulting expressions to the mourners, such as "that they were accompanying a piece of carrion to the churchyard; that the Cross was a cursed emblem," &c. The Christians thereupon beat the soldiers, and so ill-treated one of them that he was dangerously ill. Fourteen Christians were subsequently arrested on receipt of the Grand Vizier's despatch; four have already been liberated, and it has been found that only two of the ten now in prison were at the funeral, and they would have been liberated ere now were it not that the Vali fears that their liberation would displease the Sultan.

The Christians in general are greatly exasperated at the Vali's severity, though they know very well that his Excellency is no fanatic, and that circumstances alone have obliged him to act as he has done. His Excellency is much annoyed at Colonel Briscoe's imprudence in this and in other matters, and the letter of the Minister of War renewing Colonel Briscoe's contract for three months is, according to a public notice in the official journal of the vilayet, to be withdrawn.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

No. 63.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 13.)

(No. 161.) *Constantinople, March* 6, 1882.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 148 of the 28th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I communicated privately to Assim Pasha the assurances given to me by the Russian Embassy with regard to the permission to be granted to Ottoman subjects to cut wood in the Forest of Saghauli.

His Excellency has expressed to me the thanks of the Ottoman Government for the interest taken by Her Majesty's Government in this matter.

I inclose herewith a copy of his letter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 63.

Assim Pasha to the Earl of Dufferin.

Constantinople, ce 4 Mars, 1882.

Excellence,

PAR une lettre en date du 28 Février votre Excellence voulait bien m'informer que les ordres nécessaires venaient d'être donnés à qui de droit pour permettre aux sujets Ottomans de couper du bois dans la Forêt de Saghauli.

La Sublime Porte a été très sensible à l'intérêt que votre Excellence et son Gouvernement se sont plus à témoigner en cette circonstance à nos populations. Je m'empresse de vous exprimer nos plus vifs et plus sincères remercîments.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) M. ASSIM.

No. 64.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 13.)

(No. 173.) *Constantinople, March* 7, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a Report addressed by Major Everett to Major Trotter on the condition of the Vilayet of Erzeroum.

I would venture to suggest that, if this Report is published, it would be desirable to omit the paragraph about the spread of education among the Christians at p. 2.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 64.

Major Everett to Major Trotter.

(No. 2.)

Sir, *Erzeroum, February* 21, 1882.

SINCE it appears to have been the custom in this Consulate for the Consuls to render an annual Report of the state of the district within their jurisdiction, I avail myself of the present opportunity briefly to review the principal events of the last twelve months, and to compare the present condition of the vilayet with what it was a year ago.

In the beginning of 1881 the dearth of grain and the restlessness of the Christians, who had been occupying themselves with buying arms for self-defence, caused, and with reason, some anxiety. With regard to the first question, thanks to the assistance from England, from America, and from Constantinople, much suffering was alleviated, but notwithstanding the great help thus afforded, very little permanent good would have been effected if the harvest had not been favourable. The expectations were great, and these being fully realized, those who had sown little found themselves with enough, while others reaped very good crops. Providence, therefore, completed the work, and it cannot fail to be a satisfaction to the donors of the above-mentioned charities to know that in the Sandjak of Bayazid, where there had been most suffering, grain was cheaper this autumn than anywhere else in the vilayet. Much might be written on the effects of harvest in this country.

In its present condition, a moderate harvest produces greater prosperity than a superabundance of grain, for the difficulties attending exportation, causing in the latter case a great fall in prices, and a consequent inability to make purchases of imported articles, produces stagnation in trade. So also, with an excellent harvest one year, the people may be found in great necessity the next. Unable to get rid of the superfluity, no one grows the richer, and, unprovided with efficient granaries, much grain is entirely spoilt during the following winter, some rots altogether from the custom of burying it in pits dug in the earth, and much more is wasted. Good communications would of course change all this, but at present we must be contented with the fact that, though great poverty exists, the people are not starving, and that, the snowfall having been once again very heavy, the prospects for this year are so far good. This anxiety is therefore temporarily removed. I say temporarily because, where no provision is made for storing water, and where communications are so indifferent, there must always be fear of famine.

With reference to the other question, although perfect tranquillity reigns throughout the vilayet at this moment, while the disquieting rumours which were circulating last year are absent, he would be a rash man who would go so far as to state that all reason for anxiety is removed. When ample reforms shall have been introduced into the country, practical reforms giving satisfaction to all classes and creeds, the danger will be lessened, but it is probable that, in proportion as education is spread among the Christian population, many qualities and aspirations long since dormant will be once more aroused, and then further measures will be necessary to secure the peace of the country. On the other hand, should reforms not be introduced, or, being introduced, should not be sufficiently radical to satisfy the Christians, already irritated at the delay, the danger will be increased.

The strides which are being made in education among the Christians have already been pointed out to you in a Report specially dedicated to the subject and forwarded in July last. Since then a new school has been opened by the Gregorian Armenians, supported by a wealthy and patriotic Russian Armenian. The object of the school is the training of teachers. There are at present about twenty-five pupils in this establishment who are dressed in uniform. A new instructor arrived a few weeks ago from Constantinople, and two others are expected this week from Tiflis. Vigorous efforts are also being made in some of the villages to start schools, but with such a dearth of instructors comparatively little can be done, and the rising generation are for the most part left to get, during the long hours of winter, such knowledge as they can pick up from the village *savant*, who is paid by the villagers for his trouble.

The principal changes in the administration have been the formation of the communes, the erection of the Deyesim into a separate vilayet, and the appointment of a Mutessarif to the central sandjak. None of these measures, so far as I know, have been of any use to the country.

The Mudirs are for the most part incapable and illiterate, and having neither staff nor police at their command, are perfectly useless, while, where Christian, no respect

whatever is shown them. The system as at present worked may therefore be pronounced a failure.

I am not aware that the second measure has produced any benefit to the Deyrsim district, but on this I am unable at present to give exact information. The appointment of a central Mutessarif is, as I have already remarked, an unnecessary expense with no equivalent advantage (I refer, of course, to this vilayet). Our Vali, Mustafa Pasha, is not the man to relinquish one jot of his authority—a fact which the new Mutessarif was quick enough to see. The latter has therefore quietly resigned himself to his position, and doubtless enjoys the tranquil life he is enabled to lead.

Two minor measures must not be omitted, viz., the readjustment of the Narriman and Tortum districts, and the appointment of a Kaïmakam to the Caza of Erzeroum. The first of these was necessary, and the arrangement made was good. The second also cannot be found fault with, for it relieves the Central Government of petty cases, and places all the cazas on the same footing. It also savours of decentralization. Might not some other of these measures have been a means to the same end?

The chain of responsibility from Vali to Mudir is complete enough, and yet nothing works. Clogged with fanaticism, ignorance, and corruption, every additional wheel added to the machine is but a fresh encumbrance to the whole system. Elaborately constructed, it is yet altogether incapable of fulfilling properly a single object for which it was made. But so it is with everything Turkish.

I cannot observe any improvement in the Law Courts, nor can it be expected that there should be, when no attempt whatever is made to improve them. Although Nafyz Pasha has long since quitted the vilayet, no one has been appointed in his place, and the duties of the Inspector-General of Tribunals are still incompetently performed by the Procureur-Général, with whose character you are already acquainted.

Two Christian officials have been replaced by Turks. One of the former was removed by the authorities on the supposition, without proof, that he attended a meeting of a revolutionary character, and the other, who was at Bayazid, resigned on account of the wilful and unrepressed interference in the Justice Courts of the Governor, and also, it is said, for fear of his life.

At the present time there is but one Christian that I know of (Philibbos Effendi Saraïan, Procureur of Baiburt) holding an official post in the vilayet. Throughout the country there has been a tendency on the part of the authorities to rid themselves of the Christians. Out of seven Christians who a year ago were holding appointments in the Vilayets of Erzeroum, Bitlis, and Van, only two remain to-day.

Trade has briskened up a little this winter, but the poverty both of the Government and the people is great. The following incident will give an idea how very little money there is in the Treasury. About a fortnight ago the military authorities asked the Governor-General for money for the troops. After a good deal of discussion, the Vali consented to pay up a certain proportion of the arrears, and handed over £T. 16 (about 14*l.* 10*s.* 10*d.*) to be divided among three battalions. Since then further demands have been made upon him, and I have been informed on very good authority that, unable to make further payments in money, he has secretly been paying the officers in wheat. That there should be considerable grumbling among the soldiers is, then, not much to be wondered at. What is surprising is that the demonstration should be confined only to grumbling.

Among the poor of the city the great and continued severity of the winter has caused much suffering. I took the opportunity during a couple of intensely cold weeks, when the thermometer was standing sometimes as low as −20° Fahrenheit, to spend all that remained to me of Lady Strangford's Fund, and have distributed a little flour and fuel to nearly 500 families. Though in the villages there is no suffering, the poverty is great, on account of the large demands which were made upon the people during the late season of scarcity for arrears of taxes. I believe that these have been now pretty well all paid up, and therefore, if the harvest is good this year, a season of greater prosperity may be expected.

During the latter part of the summer the Russian authorities permitted wood to be taken from the Soghanlu for building purposes. So far as I can learn from the merchants, the amount is limited to 10,000 trees. This is a boon that will be very thoroughly appreciated by the inhabitants of the districts to the eastward, where the houses that had been damaged during the war could not be rebuilt for want of wood. I am also happy to inform you that permission has been given to the Mutessarif of Baibart to construct a road over the mountains to the northward of that town, for the purpose of opening up a forest which lies in the direction of Ott. The work, I am given to understand, is to be done by the able-bodied inhabitants, each of whom is to contribute four days' labour to the undertaking. The distance required is said to be 40 kilom. If this road is ever completed, the effects of the loss of the Soghanlu forest will be greatly neutralized, and wood may be expected to become cheaper.

Thanks to the general inefficiency of the police and the hearty co-operation of certain influential members of the Government, the highwaymen have had an excellent year of it. Certainly never since my arrival in the country have the roads appeared to be so unsafe as during last summer. Except in large parties, it was quite impossible for merchants to travel with any safety in any direction, while the robberies from villages, especially in that unsettled and badly-administrated Sandjak of Bayazid, have been very great. My recent journey in the valley of the Tchoruk Su has exposed a state of lawlessness that rivals Bayazid; so that, except in the favoured and sequestered valleys of Tortum, it is difficult to find a spot where peace exists, unless, perchance, it may be in the direction of Erzingian, a part of the vilayet that I have not yet visited.

I have alluded once or twice to the emigration of the Greeks into Russia. Unable to put up any longer with Turkish misrule, they accepted the chance of escape offered to them, and, in spite of the remonstrances of their ecclesiastical authorities, sold off everything and fled. I understand that they have been treated with great consideration by the Russian authorities, and are in no way disappointed with the change. Doubtless their example would have been followed by great numbers of Armenians if any encouragement had been given them. In the Passin, and particularly in the village of Todeveran, several Armenians prepared to emigrate this autumn, even going so far as to sell off their goods. But they were turned back at the frontier. Others, more cautious, sent over deputies to sound the Russian authorities on the matter, and received the reply that, at present, permission could not be granted, as it was not possible at the moment to estimate how much land still remained unoccupied, but that an answer should be given in the spring. One or two families, however, managed to pass the frontier, both from the Passin and from Alashgerd. It is possible, but, in my opinion, improbable, that the Armenian applicants will be received, so long, at least, as others of a different nationality can be found to fill the villages recently vacated by the Moslems. Throughout the year further driblets of refugees from Russia passed through the vilayet, bound westward, but not to the same extent as in 1880.

At length the snow fell, emigrations ceased, the robbers were compelled to seek shelter, and the vilayet rested. Whether it will awake to new scenes of rapine or to a fairer prospect will depend on the possibility of the introduction of such measures as will repress the one and insure the other before the snow melts. It is generally believed here that we are on the eve of seeing something done. No one knows exactly what, and no one has much faith in the result, because it is rumoured that, though a few broad lines have been suggested to the Porte by the Powers, the details are to be worked out and executed principally, if not entirely, by the Ottoman officials.

If this rumour is true, I think the fears of the people are well grounded; and I purpose closing this Report by endeavouring to show, in as few words as possible, that the Turks are incapable, of themselves, of introducing any real reform into this country.

The excuse hitherto made by the Porte for delaying reforms is want of time, and if reform consisted only of a few great measures which, implying changes in the system of government, require much deliberation, the excuse might be valid. But this is not so. One-half of the reform necessary to the welfare of the country is to be attained under the existing laws, and nothing is required to carry them out beyond good will and honesty among the officials. If, then, there had been any wish at all, a very great improvement would have already been noticeable. But the wish does not exist, neither here nor at Constantinople. If it did, there would not be this reluctance to dismiss officials who, in any other country, would be severely punished; I refer to the Mutessarif of Bayazid. If it did, we should not see those few men with whose rule the people are, to a certain extent, contented peremptorily dismissed, without fault or reason, to make way for any one who, paying a bribe at Constantinople, comes out for the sole and only purpose of gaining a livelihood at the expense of the people; I refer to the recent dismissal of four Kaïmakams in this caza. If it did, we should not see every farthing drained away to the capital, instead of being left, if for nothing else, at least to pay the soldiery and police. If it did, vacancies in the Courts of Justice would not be refilled, and designedly refilled, with men not only incompetent, but of noted bad character; nor would the important post of Inspector-

General of Tribunals be left practically vacant for nearly a year. In short, if it did, I should not be continually reporting misdeeds, the main of which are to be attributed, not only to want of good will, but to an apparently strange desire to make things even worse than they were before.

But this desire is only strange until the reason for it is understood. Of all the above-mentioned evils, the most deadly is the perpetual demands from Constantinople for money. If it is not the origin of all the others, it is nearly so. Directly, it is one of the reasons why no public works, roads, &c., can be constructed in the country. Directly, also, it is the principal reason for the corruption which exists throughout every branch of administration, and as such is an indirect cause of the want of security as well as of the sale of justice. The officials being irregularly paid an inadequate salary, and thus being left to shift to a certain extent for themselves, make money on their own account by extortion, by bribery, and by robbery both from the Government and the people, and so far as the officials are concerned the system answers. They find in it a means not only of recouping themselves, but of doubling their former salaries. Nor are the Constantinople officials discontented, for they observe that so long as they wink at the proceedings of the provincial officials they can extract as much money from the provinces as they choose. It enables them also to make further reductions in salaries without fear of complaint, from those at least from whom complaint is to be feared. It is well known that last year the salaries of officials were reduced by 20 per cent. Was anybody the poorer? Certainly not. There is at this moment a report current that salaries are again to be reduced by another 20 per cent. Is there any demonstration? Certainly not; for the officials have long since been independent of their salaries, which, indeed, now make but a very small portion of their incomes. The system, therefore, suits everybody from the highest official of the State to the collector of the village taxes or the humblest writer in the Court of a caza. All officials, civil, military, and ecclesiastical, are open to its influence, and they one and all earn, in proportion to their rank, their genius, and their opportunities, enough not only to live on, but in some cases to enrich themselves. There is a sort of tacit understanding between them and the Porte that so long as money is forthcoming when it is wanted there shall be no inquiry made as to how it has been obtained, provided the scandal is not too glaring. If it is, the offender must be fined (literally), after which he may begin again somewhere else. In the meantime the people suffer, and the country, left almost to itself, is going to ruin. But for the country no one cares, and the people, that is the Moslem portion, are silenced through their ecclesiastics, an easy matter where religious feeling is so strong. Hence, where in other countries there would be a revolution, here no sound is heard, except the weak remonstrances of those communities who are not so influenced.

It is in this system, also, that we see the origin of the remarkable apathy which is shown by officials on the question of reform, and it is natural enough, for reform would be to hundreds that real real reduction in income which is at present only fictitiously represented by the orders issued from time to time by the Porte.

It is the secret, too, of the laziness of Turkish officials on all questions which to the European world seem to require prompt energy. In questions of individual interest there is energy enough. Let any one pay a visit to the *sérail* of a vilayet. He will see there plenty going on. There is a crowd of officials bustling, writing, and working from morning till night. If he is unacquainted with the country, he may perhaps wonder how it is that with so much apparent business there is nothing done, and though from his point of view very little is effected, yet the business transacted is immense. Each of these busy workers is intent on making his fortune, and on very little else. Every proposal, every scheme, every law-suit, is regarded as a more or less profitable speculation, and attention and energy will be directed on it in exact proportion as it admits of the application of those ingenious measures which will turn it into money, while the affair, whatever it may be, will be delayed and held back by each official in turn until every farthing that can be made out of it shall have been extorted.

Lastly, it is the secret of the apparent obstinacy and unwillingness of the Porte to part with or dismiss officials. The Vali or the Mutessarif who, cruel and corrupt, is, from our point of view, not fit to be retained a day in his position, is under this system the best servant of the Porte, for he never fails to comply with the demands for money.

To suppose for a moment that the Turkish officials will voluntarily overturn this system, which they find so beneficial to their own pockets, is to suppose a disinterestedness which does not accord with their character. To satisfy men who have been so long allowed to make a large income by robbery, present salaries would have to be doubled

at least, but to increase the salaries, and thus check the robbery, money is required, and to obtain the money the robbery must first be stopped. It is not easy to see the way out of such a dilemma. Moreover, the men who would be the chief reformers are probably those who are in receipt of the largest incomes under the present régime.

If, therefore, there should be any intention of leaving the execution of the reforms to the Turks, it may be looked upon as a certainty that not the slightest benefit will be conferred upon the country.

And yet the necessity for reform in this country is imperative. It is so, firstly, on the score of humanity; for here in this vilayet alone are thousands of people who are maltreated on every opportunity. It is so, secondly, from a commercial point of view. I will not say that every year robberies and murders are on the increase (though, to say the truth, they would appear to be), for one has but to glance at the despatches of former Consuls to see that the state of things forty years ago was precisely similar to that of to-day. But to lament the past is useless. What has to be considered is that, at the present time, throughout the summer months no caravan is safe from plunder, and that if the disorders are allowed to continue, with the increased facilities offered by the more northern route, and in spite of the heavy dues and other inconveniences, merchants will find it more profitable, on account of the security afforded, to send their goods for Persia by Batoum, and abandon altogether the present line by Trebizond and Erzeroum. And, thirdly, reform is imperative because until it is introduced there will always be the fear of an outbreak which, should it arise, would occasion bloodshed, and might cause complications dangerous to the peace of other Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

No. 65.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir C. Wilson to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 20.)

(No. 1. Military.)
My Lord, *Smyrna, March* 8, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, for transmission to the Intelligence Branch of the Quartermaster-General's Department, Horse Guards, War Office, a map of Anatolia, showing the boundaries of the vilayets and sandjaks, and distinguishing the chief towns of vilayets, sandjaks, and cazas.

The map is accompanied by Tables giving the names of the various cazas, and, in some instances, their population. The information required to complete these Tables is contained, I believe, in the Reports on the several vilayets which have been transmitted from time to time, but of some of which I have no copies.

I have added a Table for the Aleppo Vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure in No. 65.

Tables giving the Names of the Sandjaks and Cazas in the Vilayets of Anatolia.

Adana Vilayet.

	Cazas.		Cazas.
Adana Sandjak ...	Adana. Tarsus. Mersina. Kara-isoha, or Tchéjéli.	Ineh-Ili, or Selefké Sandjak	Selefké. Ghénar, or Kilindria. Ermének. Mût. Anamur, or Tchoruk.
Sis, or Kozan Sandjak ...	Sis. Kara-Zulkadrié. Hadjin. Fekié.	Jebel Bereket, or Yarpuz Sandjak	Yarpuz. Piyas. Osmanié. Hassa. Islahié. Bahatik, or Baghtché.

No details of population, not having a copy of Lieutenant Bennet's Report on the Adana Vilayet.

Aidin, or Smyrna Vilayet.

Cazas.		Cazas.	
Smyrna Sandjak ..	Smyrna.	Aidin Sandjak	Aidin.
	Odemitch.		Denizli.
	Tirch.		Nazli.
	Baindir.		Bozdoghan.
	Tchesmé.		Bullaban.
	Ménemen.		
	Vourla.	Mughla, or Menteshehr Sandjak	Mughla.
	Fotchia.		Davas.
Sarukhan, or Manisa Sandjak	Manisa.		Mehna.
	Alashehr.		Budrun.
	Ak-hisar, or Avar.		Makri.
	Demirji.		Mermeris.
	Gördiz.		Koijiseri.
	Kirk Aghatch.		Bozayuk.
	Salikli.		
	Toyhalu, or Kasaba.		
	Eshmeh, or Tukmuk.		
	Bergamé.		
	Kiba.		

No details of the population, not having a copy of Lieutenant Chermside's Report on the Aidin Vilayet.

Angora Vilayet.—Male Population.

	Cazas.	Moslems.	Greeks.	Armenians.	Total.
Angora Sandjak	Angora				
	Ayash				
	Beibazar				
	Mugalitch				
	Nally Khan				
	Yabanabad				
	Haimanch				
	Chibukabad				
	Zir, or Asha Kassaba (Assi Yuzgat?)				
	Yokara				
	Sivrihisar				
Yuzgat Sandjak	Yuzgat				
	Chorum				
	Sungurlu				
	Maden				
	Boghazlian				
Kirshehr Sandjak	Kirshehr				
	Keskin, or Maden				
	Mejidieh	38,630	9,296	13,345	61,327
Kaisarieh Sandjak	Kaisarieh	9,487	832	5,717	10,036
	Everek	7,083	2,171	..	9,254
	Injé Su				
		55,256	12,299	19,062	66,617
Angora Sandjak		275,267	1,567	11,492	202,326
Yuzgat		152,110	5,277	17,762	175,149
Kirshehr		74,651	486	279	75,416
Kaisarieh		55,256	12,299	19,062	86,617
Total ..	.. ..	561,284	19,629	48,595	629,508
Moslems ..	.. ..	..	..	..	561,284
Christians ..	.. ..	..	..	..	68,224
Total male population	..	..	..	..	629,508

Karasi Vilayet.—Male Population.

	Cazas.	Moslems.	Greeks, &c.	Armenians.	Total.
Karasi Sandjak	Karadermid (Balikisri) ..	38,207	1,441	906	40,554
	Edremid	11,897	1,910	..	13,807
	Aivalik	37	8,878	..	8,915
	Komer	6,616	619	..	7,235
	Boghaditch	18,638	218	..	18,856
	Pinderma	10,530	2,826	1,800	15,156
	Erdek	1,284	13,460	..	14,744
	Total	87,209	29,352	2,706	119,267
Biga Sandjak	Chanak	No details of population.			
	Bairamitch				
	Aivajik				
	Biga				

Kastamuni, or Kastambul Vilayet.

Cazas.		Cazas.	
Kastambul, or Kastamuni Sandjak	Kastambul.	Boli Sandjak	Boli.
	Ineboli.		Herakli.
	Tash Kupru.		Duzjé.
	Tosia.		Torbali.
	Zafaramboli.		Geredeh.
	Dadahi.		Bartan.
	Azaj.		
	Iskelib.		
	Jidch.	Tchangra Sandjak ..	Tchangra.
			Kalejik.
Sinopé Sandjak ..	Sinope.		Cherkesh.
	Bojabad.		
	Istifan.		

No details of population, having no copy of Lieutenant-Colonel Warlow's Report on Kastamuni Vilayet.

Khodavendikiar, or Brusa Vilayet.—Male Population.

Cazas.		Cazas.	
Brusa Sandjak	Brusa.	Kara-hisar Sandjak ..	Sandukli.
	Ghemlek.		Ghul.
	Biléjik.		Bulawadin.
	Yenishehr.		Afiûn, Kara-hisar.
	Mudania.		Azazich.
	Mihalitch.		
	Ainé Gul.	Kutaya, or Kermion Sandjak	Kutaya.
			Eskishehr.
			Geliz.
			Simav.
			Uslank.

No details of population, having no copy of Lieutenant-Colonel Warlow's Report on the Vilayet of Brusa.

Khoja Ili, or Ismidt Sandjak.

	Cazas.
Ismidt Sandjak ..	Ismidt. Kándra. Adabazar. Geivch. Kara Mersal.

No details of population.

Konieh Vilayet.—Male Population.

	Cazas.	Moslems.	Christians.	Yuruks and Gypsies.	Total.
Konieh Sandjak	Konieh	17,639	810	..	18,449
	Akshehr	8,973	2,138	..	11,111
	Karaman	8,641	298	32	8,971
	Eregli	7,022	206	..	7,228
	Khadim	10,146	..	..	10,146
	Bozkyr	19,210	51	..	19,261
	Ilgun	9,102	8	..	9,110
	Seidishehr	8,676	54	..	8,730
	Beyshehr	10,670	89	45	16,804
	Karahunar	6,654	..	..	6,654
	Eshikeshan	5,986	..	1,273	7,259
		113,719	3,654	1,350	123,723
Hamid, or Isbarta Sandjak ..	Isbarta	13,151	2,356	135	15,692
	Ghiborlu	6,862	400	..	7,262
	Yalovatch	11,725	30	326	12,081
	Kara-Aghatch	9,924	..	..	9,924
	Egirdir	11,464	682	..	12,146
		53,126	3,468	511	57,105
Tekké, or Adalia Sandjak ..	Tekké (Adalia)	28,085	2,085	415	30,580
	Alaya	16,047	582	801	17,430
	Aksekki	17,750	..	549	18,299
	Ehmalu	11,013	249	..	11,262
	Kush	8,842	..	..	8,842
		81,742	2,916	1,760	86,418
Buldur Sandjak	Buldur	15,457	1,239	111	16,807
	Asi Kara Aghatch ..	12,000	..	..	12,000
	Tefenni	8,212	..	..	8,212
		35,669	1,239	111	37,019
Nigdeh Sandjak	Nigdeh	8,838	1,626	16	10,480
	Nevshehr	11,724	3,767	..	15,491
	Ak Serai	24,241	800	..	25,041
	Urgub	10,588	..	..	10,588
	Bor	15,679	..	..	15,679
	Aibasun	9,979	1,750	..	11,729
		81,049	7,943	16	89,008
Konieh Sandjak		113,719	3,654	1,350	123,723
Hamid, or Isbarta Sandjak		53,126	3,468	511	57,105
Tekké, or Adalia Sandjak		81,742	2,916	1,760	86,418
Buldur Sandjak		35,669	1,239	111	37,019
Nigdeh Sandjak		81,049	7,943	16	89,008
		370,305	19,220	3,748	393,273

Moslems	370,305	Moslems	374,053
Nomads	3,748	Christians	19,220
Armenians	4,023		
Greeks	15,197	Total male population ..	393,273

[Sivas Vilayet.—Male Population.

	Cazas.	Moslems.	Greeks.	Armenians.	Total.
Sivas Sandjak	Sivas	22,703	..	8,935	31,643
	Koch Kiri (Zara)	15,521	..	5,664	21,185
	Azizié	34,996	..	2,539	37,535
	Divriki	7,435	..	2,712	10,147
	Gurun	3,423	..	242	3,665
	Derendé	4,293	..	327	4,620
	Tunus (Shark Kishla) ..	13,991	..	5,506	19,497
	Khafik (Koch-hisar) ..	14,305	..	4,608	18,913
	Yildiz Ili (Yeni Khan) ..	12,092	..	507	12,599
		128,764	..	31,040	159,804
Amasia Sandjak	Amasia	16,416	1,826	2,680	20,916
	Mersifun	7,066	57	2,596	9,719
	Maden Shia	8,140	1,030	1,026	10,196
	Ladik	4,006	715	63	4,784
	Osmanjik	7,622	3	1	7,626
	Mejid Uzu	11,866	43	82	11,991
	Vizir Kupru	15,720	49	1,158	16,927
		70,836	3,717	7,606	82,159
Kara-hisar Sandjak	Kara-hisar	7,979	4,019	3,459	15,457
	Mekas (Hamidié)	11,879	1,486	112	13,477
	Su Shehri	6,760	1,475	4,677	12,912
	Keil-hisar	7,012	337	29	7,378
	Elvechere (Enderes) ..	8,477	291	..	8,768
		42,107	7,608	8,277	57,992
Tokat Sandjak	Tokat	24,920	1,505	4,788	31,213
	Zilé	23,026	..	967	23,993
	Hazek (Akba)	11,725	1,466	527	13,718
	Niksar	6,326	1,037	747	8,110
		65,997	4,008	7,029	77,034
Sivas Sandjak		128,764	..	31,040	159,804
Amasia Sandjak		70,836	3,717	7,606	82,159
Kara-hisar Sandjak		42,107	7,608	8,277	57,992
Tokat Sandjak		65,997	4,008	7,029	77,034
		307,704	15,333	53,952	376,989

Moslems	307,704	Moslems	307,704
Greeks	15,333	Christians	69,285
Armenians	53,952		
		Total male population ..	376,989

Trebizond Vilayet.—Male Population.

	Cazas.	Moslems.	Greeks.	Armenians.	Total.
Trebizond Sandjak	Trebizond	45,169	13,554	5,151	63,874
	Rizeh	36,629	261	..	36,890
	Ordu	28,581	4,311	3,330	36,222
	Off	25,945	432	..	26,377
	Kerasund	22,462	2,628	318	25,408
	Surmench	16,613	1,708	117	18,398
	Tirébolí	14,992	2,034	213	18,139
	Gurleh	12,118	375	59	12,552
	Vakfikibir	7,082	..	17	7,099
	Ibasdi	4,577	658	..	5,235
	Total	214,668	26,921	9,205	250,794
Lazistan Sandjak	Astinah	15,433	..	22	15,455
	Hoppah	13,359	..	..	13,359
	Total	28,792	..	22	28,814
Gumush-Khané	Gumush-Khané	8,078	3,486	579	12,143
	Torul	7,039	8,825	..	16,764
	Kelkit	8,658	510	71	9,239
	Ishkan	4,198	660	82	5,240
	Total	29,173	13,481	732	43,386
Janik or Samsun Sandjak ..	Samson	13,097	13,286	207	26,590
	Termeh	9,191	224	768	10,183
	Charshembeh	20,975	1,564	4,960	27,499
	Unieh	11,007	1,684	1,634	14,325
	Fatsháh	16,706	644	369	17,719
	Bafra	14,422	7,993	302	22,717
	Total	85,398	25,395	8,240	119,033
Trebizond Sandjak		214,668	26,921	9,205	250,794
Lazistan		28,792	..	22	28,814
Gumush-Khané Sandjak		29,173	13,481	732	43,386
Janik, or Samsun Sandjak		85,398	25,395	8,240	119,033
Total		358,031	65,797	18,199	442,027

Moslems	358,031	Moslems	358,031
Greeks	65,797	Christians	83,996
Armenians	18,199	Total male population ..	442,027

Aleppo Vilayet.—Male Population.

	Cazas.	Moslems.	Christians.	Jews.	Total.	
Aleppo Sandjak	Aleppo	34,053	7,992	2,536	44,581	
	Antioch	24,675	2,282	108	27,025	
	Aintab	30,200	6,146	260	36,606	
	Beilan	7,491	1,294	..	8,785	
	Idlib	16,580	980	5	17,565	
	Rihanié	2,868	..	..	2,868	
	Harum	15,876	..	..	15,876	
	Jisr Shughur	22,215	6,450	..	28,665	
	Meghara	8,000	165	..	8,165	
	Bab	6,482	..	842	7,324	
	Azié (kilis)	22,000	..	..	22,000	
	Scanderun (Gelin)	17,204	1,581	189	18,974	
	Total	207,634	26,890	4,000	238,524	
Marash Sandjak	Marash	17,032	8,316	103	25,451	
	Andarin	7,226	..	..	7,226	
	Albistan	14,958	804	..	15,762	
	Zeitun	3,995	6,126	..	10,121	
	Bazarjik	11,613	..	..	11,613	
	Total	54,824	15,246	103	70,173	
	Urfa	22,499	5,622	..	28,121	
	Birejik	11,008	463	..	11,471	
	Rum Kalé	15,275	287	..	15,562	
	Seruj	6,800	15	..	6,815	
	Total	55,582	6,387	..	61,969	
	Deir	4,280	..	..	4,280	
	Ras el ain	9,000	..	..	9,000	
	Rakka	9,600	..	..	9,600	
	Bibukemal	4,000	..	..	4,000	
	Ashara	3,442	..	..	3,442	
	Basiré	1,490	..	..	1,490	
	Subkha	3,450	..	..	3,450	
	Total	35,262	..	..	35,262	
Aleppo Sandjak		207,634	26,890	4,000		Total male population, 405,928
Marash		54,824	15,246	103		
Urfa		55,582	6,387	..		
Zor, or Deir Sandjak		35,262	..	..		
Total		353,302	48,523	4,103		

No. 66.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received March 20.)

(No. 119.)

Vienna, March 13, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch No. 52 of the 28th ultimo, and in compliance with the instructions contained therein I lost no time in addressing a note to Count Kálnoky, in which I communicated to his Excellency the draft scheme of Reforms for Armenia, as revised by the Earl of Dufferin and M. de Novikow, and approved by the Representatives of the other Great Powers at Constantinople.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 67.

Lord Ampthill to Earl Granville.—(Received March 20.)

(No. 93.)

Berlin, March 14, 1882.

My Lord,

IN obedience to the instructions conveyed to me in your Lordship's despatch No. 89 of the 28th ultimo, I have communicated to the Minister for Foreign Affairs

a copy of the final scheme of Reform for Armenia, as revised by Her Majesty's Ambassador and the Russian Ambassador, M. de Novikow, and approved by the Representatives of the other Great Powers at Constantinople.

In thanking your Lordship for this communication his Excellency observed that the German Ambassador in London had already on a previous occasion explained to your Lordship the reasons for which the Prince Chancellor was not favourable to much diplomatic pressure for Reforms on the Porte at the present moment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AMPTHILL.

No. 68.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received March 22.)

(No. 216.)
My Lord, *Paris, March 20, 1882.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 199 of the 6th instant, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of a note from M. de Freycinet, acknowledging the receipt of the paper respecting Armenian Reforms drawn up by Sir Charles Wilson and Major Trotter, and amended by the Earl of Dufferin and M. de Novikow.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 68.

M. de Freycinet to Lord Lyons.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Paris, le 13 Mars, 1882.*

J'AI reçu avec la lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'adresser le 6 de ce mois, le texte d'un projet de réformes concernant la situation des Arméniens établis en Turquie, projet qui a été élaboré par Sir C. Wilson et le Major Trotter, et amendé par le Comte de Dufferin et M. de Novikow.

Je remercie votre Excellence d'avoir bien voulu me communiquer ce document, dont l'intérêt ne saurait m'échapper.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) C. DE FREYCINET.

No. 69.

Sir E. Thornton to Earl Granville.—(Received March 20.)

(No. 97. Confidential.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, March 15, 1882.*

THIS morning I met my Turkish colleague in the waiting-room of the Russian Foreign Office, and, with reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 78 of the 9th instant, spoke to him about the immigration of Lazes from Batoum and its neighbourhood. He said that he had appealed upon the subject to M. de Giers, who had promised that those who had already applied during the prescribed term for leave to emigrate, and had their papers in order, would be allowed to leave Batoum in the spring or summer, and that, perhaps, some other exceptions might be made, even in favour of those who were not yet supplied with papers.

Chakir Pasha then went into M. de Giers' room, and, when I was subsequently admitted, I found that he had mentioned the subject of our conversation. M. de Giers showed some irritation about it, and told me confidentially that two Turkish ships of war had been staying a long time at Batoum, and that their officers had been appealing to the religious feelings of the Lazes, and others had been endeavouring to induce them, against their wishes, to emigrate, and had created so much agitation that disorders had resulted from it, and he had been obliged to request that the Porte would withdraw the two vessels, and would, for the future, send only merchant ships to take away emigrants. M. de Giers added that the Turkish Consul-General at Batoum had been following the same course, and had been making use of it as a

matter of speculation, granting passes to visit the lands within Turkish territory upon which the emigrants might settle; the result of which had been an organized system of disorder and brigandage on the frontier, which had given the Russian authorities a great deal of trouble.

A new Governor, Prince Dondoukow-Korsakow, has lately been appointed to the Caucasus; he went straight from Odessa to Batoum, and was requested to inquire into this matter. M. de Giers assured me that his Excellency had since written, and had declared that there were now no Lazes who had applied within the prescribed term for leave to emigrate, nor any now on their way to Batoum with that object. If, however, any such should appear, they would still be allowed to emigrate; but, in that case, his Excellency expressed the hope that the Porte would dispatch merchant ships, and not men-of-war, for their conveyance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. THORNTON.

No. 70.

Consul-General Stanley to Earl Granville.—(Received March 25.)

(No. 20.)
My Lord, *Odessa, March 20, 1882.*

MR. VICE-CONSUL PEACOCK has reported to me the arrival of Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff at Batoum, and his visit to the "military town" just beyond the boundary-line of the free port, where are erected barracks, artillery magazines, and the battery, which is a conspicuous object from the port.

At an interview with the Consular Body he expressed himself very sanguine as to the commercial future of Batoum, and said that foreign merchants and capitalists would be very welcome.

As to his powers, compared with those of his predecessor, the Grand Duke Michael, Mr. Peacock says that, invested as he is with civil and military authority over the fourteen districts of the Caucasus and Trans-Caspian territory, so far as local administration is concerned he will practically hold the same position, but that there is a difference in his relations with the Supreme Government, as the Lieutenancy of the Caucasus having been abolished, the local Departments of Customs, Public Works, Instruction, &c., are now placed under their respective Ministries at St. Petersburgh.

With regard to the prohibition to the Lazis to emigrate, Mr. Peacock mentions, with a view to correcting any false reports that may be spread, an incident connected with the Lazis in which he was concerned, viz., that on the 3rd instant a deputation of Lazis, a crowd of them remaining outside, visited him, and explained that above 500 families, ready to emigrate some time ago, had been detained owing to the communications being interrupted by the snow, and that now, having given up their homesteads in order to embark, they were forbidden to do so on the ground that the term fixed, viz., the 15th February, had expired, and they wished him to give a written statement as to their detention and the cause of it.

Mr. Peacock declined to interfere.

He states that they had previously applied to Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff in such a disorderly manner that they had to be dispersed by the police.

He adds that the Governor of the province told him that for three years an agitation had been carried on to promote the emigration of these Lazis, which, though it was most inconvenient and caused many difficulties, he was bound to tolerate till the 15th February last, when, the term of emigration having expired, those who remained became Russian subjects, and could only leave the country after compliance with Russian law as to passports, &c.

The Governor also mentioned to him that the Turkish Consul-General there had spread a report that, by telegram from Constantinople, a further term of three months had been granted for emigration.

Though Mr. Peacock very properly declined to interfere, it would seem hard that these people, if they really had intended to have left within the term fixed, and were prevented by the weather, which has certainly been abnormally severe in the Caucasus, should be debarred from the privileges secured to them by the Treaty of Berlin.

On the other hand, it is possible that some recent act of the Russian authorities, or fear of some impending act, may have decided those who wavered to the last to leave the country, and with regard to this tardy decision no Eastern, especially those subject to the but nominal authority exercised over them by the Turkish Government,

such as the Lazis, would readily understand that such a trifle as a date has a meaning with other Governments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. E. STANLEY.

No. 71.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received March 27.)

(No. 200.) *Constantinople, March 20, 1882.*
My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 128 of the 22nd ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch I have received from Sir Charles Wilson on the subject of the condition of the district of Kaisariyeh, as described by an American missionary in that place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 71.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir C. Wilson to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 12.) *Smyrna, March 8, 1882.*
My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 2 of the 11th February last, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that in a letter recently received from Dr. Farnsworth, American missionary at Kaisariyeh, he writes as follows:—

"Hitherto the suffering is less than we feared, and we hope to be able to hold the money in reserve, and perhaps to return it to be used in more destitute regions. I am very sorry to say that the outlook is growing more and more alarming. We are now having severe winter with deep snow. Mercury this morning 10 degrees below zero; colder, if I mistake not, than I have known here, except in the remarkable winters 1864 and 1874. No flour is coming into Talas, and very little to Cesarea. It seems as if there must be very great suffering both here and in the villages."

The letter is dated the 7th February, 1882.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

No. 72.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received March 27.)

(No. 204.) *Constantinople, March 21, 1882.*
My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 16 of the 11th January last, on the subject of the discharge from prison of Daoud Effendi, late Kaïmakam of Zeitoun, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the Procureur-Général states that, having examined the Sultan's Iradé of Amnesty to persons concerned in the Zeitoun massacres, he finds that Daoud Effendi was not entitled to be set free under it, and that, consequently, his release was illegal. The papers relating to the case have now been sent to the Cour de Cassation for consideration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 73.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 155.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, March 31, 1882.*

I APPROVE the arrangements which, as reported in your despatch No. 199, Confidential, of the 20th instant, your Excellency has made for the employment of Colonel Stewart in the Dersim Vilayet, and of Lieutenant Bennet during the summer in the Taurus and Anti-Taurus Mountains, and the tour which Sir C. Wilson proposes he should make on his return from leave.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 74.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received April 3.)

(No. 228.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 27, 1882.*

I HAVE now learned, upon good authority, that a German interest is seeking to obtain the concession for a railway between Constantinople and Bagdad, and that the claimants are receiving a certain amount of support and countenance from the German Government.

An American Company is also in the field with a competing project.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 75.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received April 3.)

E
(No. 232. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 28, 1882.*

ON receiving a copy of the print intended for Parliament relating to the Armenian question, I requested Mr. Sartoris to inform my colleagues that my despatches, giving an account of what had passed at our conferences on the subject, were about to be published, together with the Consular project of Reforms upon which we had agreed.

Mr. Sartoris did not find that any objection was taken to this course either by my Italian, my Russian, or my German colleagues [M. Tissot is no longer here], except that the two last observed that these proceedings had not yet received the formal sanction of their Governments, and that they would be glad to refer the matter home. They had no doubt, however, that the Cabinets of St. Petersburgh and Berlin would acquiesce in everything which had been arranged.

My Austrian colleague, to whom a similar message had been sent, came to see me in regard to it, for the purpose, as he said, of clearing up a slight discrepancy between his account of what had passed in regard to the Consular project, as given by himself to his Government, and an intimation which had been made to Count Kálnoky by Sir Henry Elliot. He said that in writing to Vienna he had not described the Consular project amended by M. Novikoff and myself as having been formally accepted by the Ambassadors, and he asked me whether I considered it to have been agreed to. I said that certainly I had; and that that was the impression, I believed, of all my colleagues. The original scheme had been provisionally accepted in principle, and had then been referred to M. Novikoff and myself, upon the understanding that it should be kept strictly within the lines of the identic note of the Powers, of the 7th September, 1880.

This had been carefully done. The amended project had been communicated in Conference to the Ambassadors, and no one had raised any objections or suggested any amendment or alteration.

Baron Calice observed that no discussion had taken place, and that nothing had been signed. I replied, of course not, because it was not a document which required to be signed. From the outset it was understood that the drawing up of the project was undertaken as the best method of co-ordinating our own ideas on the subject in order

to enable us to judge whether the project of the Porte, to whom we were all anxious to leave the initiative, came up to our own standard of what was required; and that it was only in the last resort that the question could arise of communicating to the Ottoman Government what had been determined. "Moreover," I observed, "it is evident that there is no room for any difference of opinion, because what is recorded in the Consular project is merely a reiteration of what the Powers have already said to the Porte." I trusted, therefore, that, under the circumstances, Baron Calice would not object to the project being described, as I had described it in my despatch to your Lordship, as one which had been unanimously acquiesced in by all the Ambassadors at Constantinople.

Baron Calice was good enough to say that, from the first, the *nuance* to which he had called attention was a very imperceptible one; that the fact of no one having criticized the English scheme, as amended by M. Novikoff and myself, nor raised any objection to it or suggested any alteration in it, might fairly be regarded as indicating an agreement amongst the Ambassadors in respect to it; and that he would write in this sense to Count Káinoky.

M. de Novikoff seemed to expect that a communication with regard to the publication of his share in the negotiations would be made to the Russian Government by Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh; and, perhaps, although M. de Hirschfeldt did not mention it, it would be as well to make a similar one at Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN

No. 76.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received April 9.*)

(No. 240.) *Constantinople, April 1, 1882.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch addressed by Major Everett to Major Trotter, inclosing a translation of a petition from the inhabitants of the Bayazid Sandjak, addressed to the Armenian Patriarch and to the Prime Minister, and signed by over 200 people, of whom nearly one-half are Moslems.

I have called the attention of the Sublime Porte to this petition.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 76.

Major Everett to Major Trotter.

(No. 5.) *Erzeroum, March 15, 1882.*

Sir,

I BEG to inclose you the translation of a petition from the inhabitants of the Sandjak of Bayazid which I am given to understand is about to be forwarded to Constantinople.

I have written so much on the grievous state of this sandjak that it seems almost superfluous to trouble you with any further details on the subject; but the fact of the petition being signed by over 200 people, of whom nearly one-half are Moslems, gives it a certain importance, while the cleverness with which the wrongs are set forth, together with its moderate tone, cannot fail to impress you.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 76.

Petition about to be presented to the Armenian Patriarch and the Prime Minister of Turkey by the Inhabitants of the Sandjak of Bayazid.

(Translation.)

IT is well known to the Turkish Ministers that we have suffered much during the Russian war.

During that war we supplied many provisions to the Turkish army, both to the regular troops and to the irregular troops. Very few receipts were given, and those few still remain in our hands. The Government are at the same time perpetually asking for arrears of taxes. We are therefore in great poverty.

2. We suffered similarly from the Russians when they were victorious.

3. When the Russians were beaten back from Dahar to Erivan they were followed up by the Turkish troops, who, passing through our sandjak, plundered us. Many people were killed, and we suffered other great losses.

4. When Ismail Pasha passed through to Bayazid, following the Russians, we assisted him as much as was in our power, both with men and with our goods. For this assistance we received no receipts, and when, by the will of God, he was obliged to fall back, we gave him from 300 to 400 oxen, and many arabas for his artillery and baggage; the whole of these were destroyed. Then till the peace the Russians occupied the country, and committed excesses of all kinds.

5. We were able to sow but little, and then, following on this terrible state of things, by the will of God, the famine came, by which we lost all that remained to us, our cattle and many people dying.

6. For the inhabitants of a country who have suffered so much for their country and by the hand of God, the Sultan would naturally wish to do something, as, indeed, would be necessary. And it might be expected that some remission of the taxes would have been made for three or four years, but our Governors and other officials, instead of looking to the interests of the people, and improving our condition by encouraging commerce and agriculture, have not troubled themselves to listen to our lamentations, which have gone up to Heaven, but have been intent only on filling their own pockets.

7. For the people who have thus suffered, and who hold the receipts above mentioned, the Sultan ordered that the beshlik should be taken at 5 piastres in the collection of the arrears of taxes, but instead of this the officials have collected them taking the lira at 100 piastres, and the medjidié at 19 piastres.

8. The tithes for the years 1296 and 1297 were placed in the Government stores, and were afterwards forwarded to Van and Bayazid. The Sultan ordered that the transport should be paid for, but the officials not only did not pay the inhabitants for the transport, but they purposely measured the wheat short, and charged the inhabitants 8 piastres for every oke missing.

9. The order is that the tithes of linseed and millet should be taken in kind; but in the years 1296 and 1297 it was taken in money. According to the custom of our country, the average value of linseed is 10 piastres the kileh, and that of millet 3 to 4 piastres the kileh. But in 1296 the Government took from us the linseed tithe at the rate of 25 piastres the kileh, and the millet tithe at the rate of 17 piastres; the lira at 100 piastres. In the year 1297, also, the linseed tithe was taken at the rate of 17 piastres.

10. From the tithe of the year 1295 the Government lent wheat to those requiring it at the rate of 1½ piastres the oke, according to the decision of the Medjliss of the sandjak, but the officials took it back from most people at the rate of 3 piastres the oke.

11. From the tithe of the year 1294 the Government lent wheat for sowing on the agreement that at the next harvest for every 8 kileh lent 9 should be returned. But the officials then refused to take it in kind, demanding it back at the rate of 25 piastres the kileh in money. Though the inhabitants have twice appealed to the Vilayet, and orders have twice been received from the Vali to pay in kind, no notice has been taken of them.

12. By a Vizirial letter it was ordered that the sheep tax of the year 1293 should be collected twice, to obtain money for the use of the troops. This tax was collected the second time in 1296, and though, if it had been collected in 1293, it would have been paid in caimé, the inhabitants were compelled to pay according to the books of 1293, the beshlik being taken at 2½ piastres.

13. At the commencement of the war the Government ordained that a certain sum of money should be collected from the people to aid the payment of the troops. The inhabitants are ignorant of the amount of the sum, but the officials continue to collect from them from time to time for this purpose, and the inhabitants are ignorant whether the demand is just or no.

14. Imperial troops are perpetually traversing the sandjak. The inhabitants have to provide them with horses, arabas, and provisions, for which the troops pay nothing.

15. The zaptiehs live upon us entirely. They are provided by us both with

forage and food. The pay that they take from the Government remains to them as pocket money.

16. According to the law, the tithe and poll tax should be taken from the people by instalments, but the officials have taken it all at once. Though this does not matter for the rich, it is very hard upon the poor who cannot so pay it. The officials have forced us to sell all we possess to comply with this unjust demand.

17. According to the law demands should be made upon the people mercifully, but we have been treated more like rebels or foreigners than subjects of the Porte. But foreigners have a Government to look after their interests—with us, however, it is different. Not content with sending us zaptiehs, the soldiers, even, have been employed to enforce the demands made upon us for the arrears from 1292 to 1297.

18. To enter into details would take up too much space, but the state of the Bayazid Sandjak is well known, and how also during the last few years the inhabitants have been plundered and compelled in many instances to desert their villages. It is evident, then, that a Commission should be sent to inquire into the matter.

Seeing our miserable condition, and that the officials are doing us great harm, we, the Undersigned, inhabitants of the Bayazid Sandjak, both Moslem and Christian, present this petition in order that it may be forwarded to the proper quarter.

(Here follow 218 seals, of which 94 are those of Moslems.)

No. 77.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received April 9.)

C.

(No. 250.) *Constantinople, April 2, 1882.*

My Lord,

AT my audience with the Sultan yesterday I did not think it advisable to refer to the Armenian question. I have already exhausted every argument which is calculated to influence the mind or conduct of His Majesty, and as he had sent for me for a particular purpose, I thought it more suitable to the occasion to refrain from recurring to a topic which had already given rise to so much discussion between us.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 78.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received April 9.)

(No. 256.) *Constantinople, April 3, 1882.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a copy of a despatch from Lieutenant Bennet, informing me that he can learn nothing about the concession demanded by the French, to which I called your Lordship's attention in my despatch No. 212 of the 23rd ultimo, of the land between the Seihoon and Jeihan.

Lieutenant Bennet's despatch incloses the rough tracing of a map he has recently prepared of the Adana plains, accompanied by an explanatory Report, which describes the chief geographical features of that district, and contains some exceedingly interesting information concerning the distribution and character of its inhabitants.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 78.

Lieutenant Bennet to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 7.) *Adana, March 22, 1882.*

My Lord,

I RECEIVED, on the 16th instant, the following telegram from your Lordship:—

"Do you know anything of a concession demanded by a Frenchman of the land between the Seihoon and Jeihan, and is Karatash a port, or capable of being made a port?"

To which I replied the following day:—

"All that district, except portion liable to inundations, is owned already; have not heard of any concession. Karatash is an open roadstead, very little used; my opinion is that it cannot become a port."

I have since indirectly asked the Vali whether there had been such a demand, and he said "No," nor can I learn anything about it from other sources; I think I can safely say, therefore, that no demand has been made here, especially as there is no spare land in that vicinity.

I forward herewith a rough tracing of a map I have lately been preparing of the plain, and a Report to accompany it; I intend handing the original to the Consul-General next month. In it I have alluded to the question of Karatash as a port. I visited the place last winter, and was not at all impressed with its natural advantages. It used to be a port, I believe, and the remains of a breakwater or reef of rocks is still to be seen about a quarter of a mile from shore, but the harbour has filled up and none but the smallest craft come inside. It is exposed from west-south-west to east, and although it would, no doubt, be possible to make a port there, I cannot imagine it will ever become of importance, because it is not required. It is 30 miles from Adana, and therefore further than Ayas Bay, which possesses every advantage over it, although the road is easier to Karatash. The grain from the Ureil district goes to Mersina chiefly by the river; I do not think more than five or six cargoes are shipped from Karatash on the average annually. Except on the hills immediately bordering the sea, and having a limited area, not much corn is grown in its vicinity, and the cotton must go first to the ginning-mills at Adana.

Mersina will remain the port for the western plain, and Ayas Bay will, no doubt, become that for the eastern. There is a very good Admiralty Chart of Ayas Bay which I saw on board Her Majesty's ship "Superb" the other day.

The Vali leaves this week on a tour, and goes first to Ayas Bay, when I hope he will settle the question of a site for the new port. There is no choice whatever, but there are about ten claimants to the land, all possessing title-deeds, and hitherto this has prevented any depôts or stores being built. I have endeavoured to make the matter clear to him.

This part of Anatolia was visited by an earthquake on the 20th ultimo; the shock is described as severe, no damage to speak of was done, but every one was much alarmed. I was out on the plain, and did not notice it.

The new system of weights and measures was introduced in this vilayet on the 13th instant; although very simple, no one understands them in the least, and the temporary effect has been to make everything 15 to 20 per cent. dearer; bread quickly found its level, and I presume the rest will follow in time, but prices are high from another cause, the want of rain; never in the memory of man has there been such a dry winter, and the barley harvest is sure to be short.

Orders have been received to abolish the market or bad value of money. The Government rate is 100 piastres to the £ T., but in this and other vilayets in the south of Anatolia the lira and other coins have had a fancy value for a long time, 123 piastres going to the £ T. The order takes effect immediately.

Bostan, a Kurd, who for two years has been troubling this part of the country by his robberies, has been captured at last by Abédine Pasha in the Aleppo Vilayet; when once the Government shows itself determined to arrest robbers, they are very easily caught, as the villagers will then come forward and proclaim their whereabouts.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FERDINAND BENNET.

Inclosure 2 in No. 78.

Report by Lieutenant Bennet respecting the Adana Plains.

THE accompanying map, though by no means to be regarded as a survey, gives a tolerably correct idea of the extent and geographical features of the great Cilician plains, or Tchukur Ova. The district consists of two plains, separated from each other by the very gradually rising fringes from the Taurus, which extend as far as the Missis.

Without reckoning waste land, such as permanent marsh and sand, the western or Adana plain has an area of about 800 square miles, the eastern or Anazarba plain of about 680 square miles. The soil consists of a stoneless rich loam, resting, at a depth

of 6 to 8 feet, on a bed of shingle, and varying only in the degree of its extraordinary fertility.

Commencing from the west, we have along the sea, from Mersina to Karatash, a belt of sand-drift varying in width, but not exceeding about 3 miles. Rank vegetation, reeds, grasses, scrub, cane-brakes, lagoons of salt and fresh water, marshes, and thickets vary the monotony of the wind-driven sand-hills, which rarely exceed a height of 10 feet, and afford shelter to the wild boar, francolin, &c. The same formation exists eastward of Karatash as far as Ayas Bay, and along the northern shore of the Gulf of Scanderoon.

Marshes and Floods.—There are two permanent marshes on the Adana plain, one situated south-west of Tarsus, a huge lagoon commencing 2 miles south of the town, and extending to the sand-hills; it is watered by a mill-lead from the Cydnus, and also by natural springs; its greatest depth is about 5 feet below the level of the sea. Some suppose it to have been the ancient port of Tarsus. That it will eventually become filled up cannot be doubted; and the Chief Engineer of the vilayet is of opinion that, by letting the waters of the Cydnus in and allowing the deposit to accumulate, this could be effected in nineteen years. The area of this marsh is much extended in winter. The other marsh is about 5 miles south-west of Adana, where there is a slight depression, and derives its water from springs. In summer only a small portion is wet, but in winter the springs rise, and soaking extends over a great area. The Vali is attempting to drain this portion, with a fair prospect of success, and intends cultivating it. With the exception of the lagoons near the sea, which are formed by the winter overflow of the rivers, or by the sea breaking in in rough weather, these are the only permanent marshes in the plain. Much of the land in both, however, is liable to inundations from the rivers. These inundations occur generally in February or March from heavy rains, and vary in extent very much from year to year. Thus, during the winter of 1880-81, on several occasions the rivers overflowed, and at one time Adana was completely surrounded by water, and, looking from the southern portion of the Jebel Nur, three-quarters of the plain appeared under water. This winter, on the contrary, never have the rivers been so low; but both were exceptional seasons. The melting of the snow in the mountains rarely causes serious inundations, though, owing to the slight fall from the edge of the mountains to the sea (about $\frac{1}{100}$), and the tortuous courses of the rivers, it not unfrequently happens that there is a good deal of water out in the southern portion of the plain in May. Blue lines on the plan represent approximately the average area which is liable to inundation. Thus, the Seihoon occasionally overflows its right banks above and below Adana, and the waters sweep away over the Aghbah district, and, uniting with the overflow from the Cydnus, inundates a great portion of the lower part of the plain between the Cydnus and Seihoon. The Seihoon overflows its left bank about 5 miles below the town, and the surplus waters find their way across to the Jeihan, and both sides of the latter river are inundated, and the water spreads out over the plain to the south, eventually reaching the sea by the old river-bed west of Karatash. The Jeihan overflows again near its mouth, and the whole of the sandy district south of the river is submerged. The eastern plain also suffers much from inundations, especially the district west of Anazarba and along the banks of the Jeihan.

With the exception of the permanent marshes, portions of the plain liable to ordinary inundations, and the belt of sand-hills along the coast, the whole of the western plain may be said to be owned and cultivated and making fair progress. The houses are built of sun-dried bricks, and the people remain always on the plain.

The eastern plain, on the contrary, is most of it uncultivated, villages are scarce, and the people move off in summer to the yaila; only the Djerid and Yarzouat Nahis are well cultivated, the rest is nearly all waste, cultivation being only carried on in the vicinity of villages, which are few. Westwards of Anazarba we have an enormous jungle of reeds, grass, and cane-brakes; northwards, except about Tchokak and along the borders of the mountains, there is hardly any cultivation, and the same to the east; south of the Jeihan, between Anazarba and Hemita, there is an enormous grass plain, but nearly the whole of this plain could be easily reclaimed, capital alone being required; the fall is sufficient to carry off most of the surplus waters, wide shallow trenches being necessary.

Timber.—Timber is very scarce on the plains. With the exception of a few stunted trees in the vicinity of a few of the villages, here and there a solitary bush out on the plain, and the belts of small trees along the Jeihan, the environs of Adana and Tarsus alone offer the relief of natural shade. Tarsus is watered by leats from

the Cydnus Falls about half-a-mile above the town, and the gardens of Adana by water-wheels; the trees are nearly all fruit trees or terebinth, or a species of oak (?), which is used to support the vines. Scrub and brushwood cover the lower fringes of the Taurus and Giaour Dagh, and on parts of the Jebel-Nur, besides the ordinary shrubs, stunted vallonea oak and other trees are found.

Rivers.—Three principal rivers pass through the plain, the Cydnus, the Seihoon (Sarus), and the Jeihan (Pyramus). The Cydnus is the smallest of the three, having its source only in the Bulgar Dagh, part of the Taurus, about 20 miles to the north of Tarsus. The Seihoon and Jeihan are large rivers rising far away in the interior; the plain has been formed by the deposit brought down by rivers the waters of which are always more or less turbid; their courses have altered many times, and old beds are easily traceable in several places. Historic evidence, I believe, exists that at different times the Seihoon and Jeihan united, and even now an ancient bed of the former can be traced from a few miles below Adana to a point in the latter nearly opposite Dede Dagh. A large river-bed running up from Karatash Point can be traced for several miles and still contains water, and it is more than probable that in the time of Alexander both rivers reached the sea by this bed. Their present courses are widely apart, the Seihoon bearing away in a serpentine course south-west of Adana and entering the sea near the Cydnus, and the Jeihan turning to the east below Dede Dagh. Probably all the land to the east of the low hills running up from Karatash has been formed, comparatively speaking, of late years, and it can only be expected that Ayas Bay will in course of time be filled up. The Cydnus has an average width of from 30 to 40 yards, and the Seihoon and Jeihan of about 100 yards, the latter being probably the larger river of the two. The mouths of the rivers are rendered difficult of access by a sand-bar which forms right across, leaving at most and only in certain places 3 or 4 feet of water; small boats and flat-bottomed barges and lighters can cross when the sea is not breaking heavily, but there is often a nasty surf on. The rivers are all navigable for small craft a long way up unless the waters are unusually low; the current for the first few miles is hardly perceptible and never rapid through the plain, mud banks here and there are a slight obstacle, but there seems to be no reason why the Seihoon should not become navigable as far as Adana for small tugs, and the Jeihan as far as Missis; a good deal of grain at present goes to Mersina by water. The position of bridges and ferries is given on the map; the Cydnus is often fordable in many places, the Seihoon, I believe, never, and the Jeihan only in a few places above Missis; the fords of course depend on the condition of the rivers, and as a rule can only be expected from August to December.

The lesser rivers are the Deli Tchai, and another with no name between Mersina and Tarsus; these at some times are flooded, at others dry; the larger of the two, the Deli Tchai, is about 10 yards wide.

Between Tarsus and Missis there are only small streams from the hills besides the Seihoon, of no importance, and generally dry except after heavy rains.

Of the northern tributaries of the Jeihan, rising in the mountains and subject to floods, we have, besides numerous rills, the Karapunar and Deli Tchai, west of Sis, which are seldom impassable from floods, and seldom quite dry, easy to ford near the mountains, where the beds are firm shingle. The Girgen Su, emerging from the mountains north of Sis, has an average width of 30 yards, and is at times much flooded, at other times it dries up after 4 or 5 miles through the plain. The Kessik Su, between Sis and Kars, though often not reaching far out in the plain, is frequently much swollen. The Kars river, the Sarroom, is the largest of the lot, and never dry; it is seldom impassable at Kars, where the bed is broad and pebbly, but difficult to cross far out in the plain. This river divides about half-an-hour from Kars, as shown, uniting again below Anazarba. Besides these, we have good springs at Tilan, Hannuan, Allah-Punar, and along the north of the plain from Bulduklu to Boujak-Kaleh. From the three latter, aqueducts conveyed water to Anazarba, and many portions of them still exist, and by their height as they approach the city serve to demonstrate how easily the district might be drained. There is a large supply of good water from all these sources, the Allah-Punar being about 10 feet wide and 2 or 3 feet deep, and the Sumbas, which has many sources, being quite a river, with an average width of 20 yards.

Of the southern tributaries, the chief comes from the Giaour Dagh, and joins the Jeihan just above Araphi. Many streams issue from the Giaour Dagh, and are split up for irrigation, a little rice being grown round Osmanieh. Some of this water finds its way down the narrow valley west of Osmanieh, and joins the Jeihan about one hour above Yarzouat. This becomes a deep and sluggish stream in the plain, and is difficult

to cross at times. A large spring rises at Tafarli, the Merjin Su uniting with the aforesaid stream an hour from the Jeihan. The streams from the Jebel-Nur are unimportant, and are usually absorbed by the plain before they reach the Jeihan; there is a warm spring at Kurt Keui, and the water generally from the Jebel-Nur is not wholesome. That in the large rivers is very good, but warm in summer, especially the Jeihan.

Mountains.—The Taurus bounds the plains on the north, but the mountains proper lie to the north of a line drawn from Mersina to Sis, the intervening ground being taken up by broken hilly ground, covered with scrub, and rising very gradually from the plain. Eastwards of Sis the mountains become bolder, fading away again between Kars and Hemita-Kaleh; the Giaour Dagh rise much more abruptly. Kiepert's map gives a very wrong impression of the Armanus range, or Giaour Dagh, representing them as running unbroken down past Missis; in reality the Giaour Dagh are all to the east of the Gulf of Scanderoon, and separated altogether from them by a narrow pass south of Toprak-Kaleh are the curved range of hills which, stretching to the west, and rising rather abruptly at first to a height of 1,200 to 1,500 feet, soon lose this height, and, becoming merely undulating hills 500 or 600 feet high, trend away in a south-west direction, fringing the western shore of the Gulf of Scanderoon as far as Ayas Bay, where they disappear on the coast, but the main branch continues more inland, as shown, ending in low scrub-covered hills for some miles north of the Jeihan, and culminating to the west in the boldly-scarped wall of rocky hills opposite Missis, the southern extremity being called Dede Dagh. The mountains are here called the Jebel-Nur, and cannot be far short of 2,000 feet in height. The northern extremity of this range are the two solitary rocky hills north of the Jeihan, about 500 feet in height, on the easternmost of which Yilan-Kaleh is situated.

On the western plain the only natural hills are those shown between Adana and Missis, which are of rock, and perhaps attain a maximum height of 400 feet; between these and Dede Dagh there are slight undulations. The eastern plain is rather more broken; in the centre the rocky cliffs of Anazarba jut forth from the plain to a height of 500 to 600 feet, perpendicular almost on the east and west, and rounded off more gradually north and south. The Tumlo rock, the hills about Hamman and Allah-Punar, the hills west of Osmanieh, and the solitary mound east of Yarzouat are always striking, as are also the rocky heights above Sis. All over the plains, following generally the main lines of communication, appear those uniform-shaped mounds, probably the ruins of villages and watch-towers.

Roads.—The only made road is that from Mersina to Tarsus and Adana, a thinly-macadamized road completed about six years ago, and allowed to fall out of repair ever since till the present time, when some slight renewals have been done. A few miles have also been lately executed from Adana towards Karatash; otherwise all the rest are mere tracks, and being a plain and perfectly open, one can move in any direction, unless prevented by obstacles, such as rivers, marshes, jungle, &c. In winter, after heavy rain, it is difficult to get about, on account of the mud. Only the main tracks have been inserted in the plan. The main roads to the interior leave the plain at Tarsus by Kulek Boghaz to Nigdeh and Kaiserieh, at Sis by Hadjin for Kaisereh and Sivas, and 10 miles east of Osmanieh by the Bulanik or Bagtché Pass to Marash and Aintab.

Ports.—It needs only a glance at the map to show how badly Mersina is situated as the port of the plain; the made road from Adana to Tarsus and Mersina, although it has not been the means of introducing wheeled transport for goods, is always easy for camels, and for this reason, and because only the western plain is as yet developed, Mersina holds its own, but the time cannot be far off when a new port must be found for the eastern plain, and at the present time there is a talk of official interest being shown in the direction of Ayas Bay. That this is the most suitable spot for a harbour there can be no doubt; Karatash is very exposed, more so than Mersina, and there are no natural advantages worth mentioning; besides, Karatash is difficult to approach by land during floods. Ayas Bay is always a safe anchorage. The choice of a suitable spot for the new town is also limited; Ayas is right at the end of the bay, and very exposed, and ships have to lie farther up, 1 mile west of Yamurtalik, in a slight bay protected by a reef of rocks, is the only spot. There is not enough water inside for ships to come close in, but they lie just outside, and the transhipment of cargo could be always going on.

The eastern plain is sure to develop more and more; the route by Kurt Kulek is very easy, and a road might be made from Missis without much trouble. I think Yamurtalik would soon rival Mersina; it is nearer Adana, would probably divert the

Kaisarieh traffic from the Kulek Boghaz route to the Hadjin Sis route, and the Marash traffic from Scanderoon.

Over the plain it is possible to drive from Adana to Sis viâ Missis and as far as Osmanieh, but it is seldom that this means is adopted anywhere except between Adana and Mersina.

Bridges.—There are stone bridges over the Cydnus at Tarsus and the smaller rivers on the main road; over the Seihoon at Adana and over the Jeihan at Missis; a few small ones over the streams and rivulets between Missis and Sis, and a larger one over the Girgen Su approaching Sis from the west. Between Sis and Kars a good stone bridge over the Sumbas Su at Tchukur Kupru, but none over the Kessik Su or Savroon on this road. Lower down there is a bridge over the eastern portion of the Savroon, opposite Anazarba; there are also two stone bridges over the Merjin Su. There are six ferries over the Jeihan, three over the Seihoon, and two over the Cydnus, the positions of which are shown; the boats take about six horses at a time.

Telegraphs.—There are three wires from Adana to Tarsus, whence two lead to the interior viâ Kulek Boghaz and two go on to Mersina. Three wires from Adana to Missis, whence one goes to Sis and two by Kurt Kulek and Scanderoon to Antioch and Aleppo. Telegraph offices at Adana, Tarsus, Mersina, Sis, and Kurt Kulek.

Climate.—It is a mistake to suppose that the climate of the Adana plain is unhealthy; it bears a very bad reputation, but it is not deserved; if travellers unaccustomed to heat will come out here during the summer and expose themselves to fatigue under the scorching eastern sun, it is no wonder that they knock up; but for eight or even nine months of the year it would be difficult to find a pleasanter climate. Considering that no sanitary precautions are taken, that the simplest remedies are scarcely understood, that there are no doctors worthy of the name, that filth of the most odious description collects in the streets of the large towns, and that in the western plain, at any rate, there is no exceptional mortality, it speaks for itself that the climate is healthy. July and August are the worst months for heat, but I do not think the thermometer often goes beyond 100° shade temperature; from June to September, inclusive, the heat is unpleasant, especially in the towns; out on the plain, where the sea breeze, which always blows fresh in the afternoon, is more felt, it is not so bad. Annually, from 50,000 to 100,000 outsiders, chiefly from Kharput and Diarbekir, come down to work on the plain during the hottest months, and I have never heard that the mortality amongst them is great. October is a hot month, but not unbearable; November to April are delightful months as regards temperature, it being nearly always warm and pleasant to the end of December; after that, if it is a wet season, and there being no roads, getting about is difficult at intervals till the end of March, but it is never cold, in our sense of the word. Sometimes we get hoar frost and bright warm days, but a fortnight is the outside during which a fire is required all day, though generally pleasant of an evening during January and February. Snow is almost unknown.

The eastern plain, owing to the small amount of cultivation, is much more unhealthy, and it is next to impossible to remain there during the hot months owing to flies, and intermittent fever is very prevalent. Small-pox, typhus, and typhoid usually exist in the towns, but of a less virulent type than in Europe; eye diseases, due to dirt, the glare, and sleeping in the open exposed to the dust, are very common. I have seen also cases of goitre among the Noghais; and stone, as elsewhere, is not uncommon. Sunstroke and rabies are almost unknown; diarrhœa and dysentery common in the fruit season.

Population.—Before entering on a detail of the population, it will be necessary to say a few words on the history of the plains for the past few years. Thirty years ago, perhaps about a quarter of the available area of the western plain was cultivated, hardly any of the eastern; the waste land was chiefly used as a winter pasturage for the flocks and herds of the Turkomans, who wandered about at their own will, recognizing no Government nor authority save that of their own Beys and Aghas; they spent five or six months in the plain, the remainder in the mountains. Long-standing feuds between the various tribes, who still retain, in many cases, the names of former Beys, rendered the district very unsettled, murders were frequent and violent robberies of daily occurrence, but the people were wealthy and prosperous enough. Gradually the area of cultivation extended in the western plain, Fellahin from the neighbourhood of Antioch, Turks, Kurds, and Christians from Kharput and the East, coming, probably, in the first instance, to work during the harvest, remained to settle, and now almost the whole available area is owned and cultivated, and farming on a large scale has been introduced. The eastern plain, on account of the insecurity, made no progress

towards reclamation, or very little, for some years, but in the spring of 1855, I believe, after a cursory inspection of the country during the cool months by some of their leaders, about 20,000 Noghai families, refugees from the Caucasus, were settled in the vicinity of Yarzouat. Besides the Turkoman tribes, with which they had many fights, these poor wretches had a most trying climate to contend with; the country for many years had been allowed to run wild, marshes and the rankest vegetation existed round their new homes, pestilential vapours exuded from the earth and hung a fetid blanket all round them, the heat was stifling, suffocating, water warm and muddy, flies of all kinds rendered life intolerable; these people, strangers, coming from a cool bracing mountainous region, with no doctors and no advice, without the means of going to cooler regions during the worst of the heat, of course died literally by thousands; and now, after twenty-five years, hardly 2,000 families remain; other refugees, Circassians and Tatars, have of late years partially filled the room of the dead Noghais; these have not suffered so much because the plain has become more healthy, and because death had weeded their ranks of all save the strongest during their two years' wandering in other parts.

Meanwhile, how have the Turkomans fared? Their lawlessness continuing and their condition becoming a scandal, in the early part of 1282, about seventeen years ago, Dervish Pasha was sent to restore tranquillity; this, with the aid of troops, was easily effected; the Turkomans made no real resistance, the Beys were taken and sent to Constantinople, whence they were exiled or pensioned off; the people's tents were burnt (they had no houses); they were hunted out of the mountains and forced to build villages on the burning plain; they were forbidden any longer to lead a wandering life, and ordered to cultivate the land, and so a Government was established. What happened? The people, from wolves, became sheep at once, and in three or four summers on the plain probably at least a half died; they took to agriculture in a half-hearted way, but are poor farmers to this day, seldom caring to grow more than just enough to support them. Gradually they have partially reverted to their old life, and the Government now does not prevent their going off to their yailas for a couple of months in summer, though contrary to the spirit of the regulations. The houses, which, in the first instance, were built of stone where possible, have tumbled down, and been replaced by wattle or reed huts; their flocks and herds have dwindled down to insignificant numbers, and their famous breed of horses has disappeared with the hard times that have come upon them; they realize the benefit of security, but have little to secure, and their tendency is to revert to the pastoral wandering life if ever they get the chance. With the least forethought, the least trouble, and the slightest regard for humanity, the terrible sufferings and misery the Noghais and Turkomans have undergone might have been avoided, and the eastern plain by this time would have had a full and thriving population. No words of mine can express the horror I feel at the wilful and atrocious cruelty of the Turkish Government in this instance.

Taking now each nahié, and commencing from the west, we have first the Mersina Nahié of 44 villages, but only 5 of these Fellah villages are on the plain, the remainder are either west of Mersina or along the fringes of the mountains, where we find Turkish and Yuruk villages of the Kenereli and Karakayali tribe and one Greek village, about 40 houses (Ginour-Keui). The Fellahs are purely agricultural, and their villages are nearly always found by the rivers; they remain always on the plain, and endure the heat very well. The Turks and Yuruks are partly agricultural and partly pastoral, and in summer go off to the Bulgar Dagh, north of Mersina, for their yaila.

The Tarsus Nahié consists of 40 villages, a mixture of Fellahs, Kurds, Turks, and a few Armenians; on the borders of the plain are Yuruks of the Karakayali and Kussreli tribes.

The Adana Nahié consists of 132 villages, and is divided into three sections: the Ureil district east of the Seihoon, the Aghah district west of the Seihoon, and the Karahajili north-west of Adana in the hills. The Ureil district consists of 61 villages and farms, a mixture of Turks, Kurds, Armenians, a few negroes and Yuruks. The Fellahs usually live separately, the Kurds, Armenians, and Turks mixed or separate. The people are purely agricultural, remaining always on the plain, except the Yuruks, who go to the mountains in summer. The villages on the plain are generally built of sun-dried bricks, there are few of stone, and the Fellahs seem to prefer wattle huts. The Aghah district consists of 47 villages and a population like the Ureil, but no negroes or Yuruks, I believe. The Karahajili district consists of 24 villages of Karahajili Turkomans; these do a little agriculture, but are chiefly pastoral, and move off in summer to the mountains. The population

of the nahié is given as 5,440 Moslem and 221 Christian, Adana city not included; but this does not include the farm labourers from outside.

The Karatash Nahié consists of 51 villages, made up of Bozdaghanli Turkomans, 250 houses; Karahr Turkomans, 50 houses; Aghja-Koyunlis, 30 houses; Kurds, 600 houses; Yuruks, 150; Turks, 135; Fellahs, 100; Greeks, 28; and a few Armenians, Persians, and gipsies. The Yuruks and Bozdaghanlis go to the mountains in summer towards Nigdeh; the former are sheep farmers and own camels, the Bozdaghanlis go in more for cattle and also do a little agriculture; the rest are purely agricultural.

The Missis Nahié consists of 24 villages and farms, Turks, Kurds, Armenians, 5 villages of Kurkju Turkomans living on the borders of the plain, 2 villages of Sirkintili Turkomans, and 4 Bozdaghanli along the foot of the Jebel-Nur. This completes the western plain.

The Yarzouat Nahié consists of 33 villages, chiefly along the banks of the Jeihan. The population in houses is said to be: Noghais, 1880; Circassians, late arrivals, 700; Tatars, 700; and a few Turks, Kurds, and Armenians. These are all purely agricultural.

The Sirkintili Turkomans are divided into two nahiés, one belonging to the Adana Sandjak, the other to Kozan. The villages are chiefly in the hills, but some are found on the plain.

The Adana Nahié contains 10 villages, between 400 and 500 houses, the Kozan Nahié 13 villages, about 800 houses. These people are agricultural and pastoral, and go to the mountains in summer.

The Ayas Nahié, or Yamurtalik, consists of 27 villages in the low undulating hills between the plain and the sea. There are about 200 houses of Bozdaghanlis, 130 Deusheks (Turks), the oldest inhabitants of this district, 40 Circassians, 40 Tatars, 60 Fellahs, 20 negroes in three small villages near the Jeihan, and 40 Armenians at Najarli. This nahié belongs to Piyas Caza.

The Osmanieh Caza contains three nahiés of Turkomans, viz., the Djerids east, Tejerli central, and Kiyi, or the borderers, along the foot of the Ginour Dagh. Each of these tribes number about 500 houses. The Djerids and Tejerlis go to the Gyuksun district for their yaila, the Kiyi to the Ginour Dagh; they are pastoral and agricultural. The Djerid Nahié contains besides about 300 houses of Circassians in 4 villages, and 1 village of Daghestanlis-Nashidieh.

Of the Sis Nahié about 15 villages are on the plain. There are 5 villages of Kirinti Kurds, 150 houses, 150 houses of Lek Kurds at Hamman and Tilan, and about 100 houses of Hadjilar Kurds, 1 Avshar village, Allah-Punar, 2 Farsak villages, 2 Armenian villages, Teliokak and Aghdam, 2 Circassian villages. Along the borders are 2 Bozdaghanli villages, Koyunluk and Bulduklu, and a couple of Turkish villages west of Boujak-Kaleh.

The Bozdaghanli Nahié (Kars Caza) consists of 9 villages, about 300 houses on the plain and on the borders; these also go to Gyuksun for their yaila.

There are only four or five Turkish villages on the plain belonging to the Kars Nahié, but there are several on the northern borders of the plain east of Boujak-Kaleh. Arapli is a large village. The people are Turks or Farsaks.

Besides the regular inhabitants of the plain, it is resorted to in winter by a great number of outsiders who bring their flocks, &c., for winter pasturage. The Circassian horses from Azizieh and the Avshars from the Saris Valley with their flocks and herds, aways come, and occasionally when there is an idea in the interior that the winter is going to be very severe there is a general inrush of sheep and goats from all the country to the north as far as Angora and Yusgat; in the spring also it is a great resort for pasturage.

During the harvest operations, from about April to October, probably 100,000 outsiders, chiefly from Kharput and Diarbekir, come into work, wages being good, and some of these remain for the winter ploughing or settle down.

This information about the population must appear slipshod and uninteresting, but it must be remembered that no reliable statistics can be obtained from the Government which does not possess it. The Census Returns show Moslems, Greeks, and Armenians only, and the information I have given about the tribes has been collected at different times from unreliable sources, and is, no doubt, more or less inaccurate. It gives a fair idea of the mixture and distribution of the people at the present time, and may, therefore, be useful in the future.

The following is the result of my inquiries about the chief towns:—

Adana.—22,000 males, consisting of Turks, 10,000 to 12,000; Fellahs, 3,000;

Armenian Orthodox, 3,000; Catholic, 250; Protestants, 180; Syrian Jacobites, 200; Greeks, 800; Kurds, 1,000; Persians, 1,500; and a few Afghans, Indians, &c.

Tarsus.—10,500 males—viz.: Turks, 5,000; Persians and Kurds, 500; Afghans, 200; Fellahs, 4,000; Armenians and Syrian Jacobites, 410; Protestants, 65; Greeks, 250.

Mersina.—A mixed population of about 5,000.

Sis.—A population of about 2,000, of which half are Armenians.

Kars.—400 to 500, 100 of which are Armenians.

Karatash.—150 houses of Fellahs, Turks, and 15 Armenians.

Adurli, one hour south of Adana, is the largest village, consisting of about 600 houses, Fellahs.

Missis.—150 houses, Turks and Armenians.

The villages, on an average, contain from 20 to 30 houses, but they vary very much.

Language.—Turkish is the universal language on the plain, almost the only exception being the Fellahin, who speak Arabic, but most of the men understand Turkish; the Noghais speak an impure language amongst themselves, a mixture of their own language and Turkish; the Circassians also speak their own language. Armenian is seldom heard. In Adana, Tarsus, and Mersina there is a great confusion of tongues, Turkish, of course, predominating.

Ruins.—Everywhere almost one comes across the vestiges of antiquity. The ruined towns are Anazarba, Bouldroum, two near the source of the Merjin Su, Geuzuch, large ruins, supposed to be Epiphaucia, south of Toprak-Kaleh, Ayas, Karatash Point (ancient Mallus), Tarsus, Missis.

Ruined castles are found at Anazarba, Tumlo, Yilan, Toprak, Honuta, Bouldroum, Boujak, Sis, two south of Missis in the Jebel-Nur, two near Mersina unimportant, and several in the Taurus and Ginour Dagh overlooking the plain.

For further information on the plains, more especially about agriculture, see my general Report on Vilayet of Adana of the 20th April, 1881, and my No. 24 of the 6th December, 1881.

No. 79.

Consul-General Stanley to Earl Granville.—(*Received April* 12.)

(No. 31.) *Odessa, April* 8, 1882.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 20, Political, of the 20th ultimo, I have the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Mr. Peacock, giving me fuller particulars on certain points which I had requested him to ascertain regarding the refusal to allow some Lazis to emigrate.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. E. STANLEY.

Inclosure in No. 79.

Vice-Consul Peacock to Consul-General Stanley.

(No. 20.) *Batoum, April* 1, 1882.

Sir,

IN reply to your despatch No. 12 of the 23rd ultimo, I have the honour to state that the Lazis who were prevented from emigrating, as communicated in my despatch No. 16 of the 8th ultimo, had all been furnished with certificates of passage by the Chief of the sub-district Artvin several weeks before the 15th February last.

According to certain regulations, such certificates were to be produced by the emigrants to the authorities of Batoum before embarking; and the purpose of issuing them in the interior by the Chiefs of the sub-districts was to facilitate the administrative control established at this port for detaining outlaws, criminals, debtors, or any other delinquents avoiding the execution of legal process.

The said Lazis, duly furnished with such certificates, gave up their homesteads, and about two weeks before the term of emigration had expired started with their families and chattels for this port, where at the time two Turkish vessels were specially waiting for the arrival of emigrants.

The weather during the greater part of January and the first half of February last was unusually severe and stormy in this district. Communication with the interior by land was impeded by snow, the "rajouks" (ferries?) on the River Tchorok were partly frozen in, partly blocked by slush ice; nor was there any possibility of reaching Batoum by sea, owing to continuous stormy weather.

About 500 families of Lazis were thus detained in the depth of the interior for two weeks.

On arriving here a few days after the 15th February last they were not allowed to embark.

From the aforesaid circumstances, as learned by me from different persons well conversant with this affair, it may be inferred (1) that the Lazis, duly furnished with certificates, gave up their homesteads and started for the port of embarkation about two weeks before the 15th February last; (2) that their journey had been inordinately prolonged and impeded by land, river, and sea owing to snow, ice, and sea gales; (3) that in consequence of these natural obstructions they reached the port of embarkation a few days after the 15th February; and (4) that they were not allowed to embark solely on the ground that the term fixed for emigration had expired before they reached this port.

I have, &c.

(Signed) D. R. PEACOCK.

No. 80.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received April* 18.)

(No. 266.) *Constantinople, April* 9, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch which I have received from Major Trotter, inclosing copy of a despatch addressed to him by Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Boyajian on the subject of affairs in the province of Diarbekir.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 80.

Major Trotter to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 11.) *Constantinople, April* 6, 1882.

My Lord,

IN forwarding to your Excellency copies of a despatch just received from Diarbekir, from our Acting Vice-Consul Boyajian, I have the honour to state that the Chief of the Rajkotan tribe, Mustaye-Kutto, against whom the Snert Mutessarif was proceeding with troops, is the same individual whose deeds are described by me in p. 196 of the Blue Book, "Turkey No. 6 (1881)."

He was once condemned to death for the cold-blooded murder of forty persons, but he escaped from confinement at Sivas about two years ago, since which until lately there has been, I believe, no attempt to arrest him. I am happy to state that I have been informed that the measures now taken have been successful, and that the Chief has been arrested along with many of his retainers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. TROTTER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 80.

Acting Vice-Consul Boyajian to Major Trotter.

(No. 2.) *Diarbekir, March* 16, 1882.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to submit to you the following remarks upon the present condition of the affairs in this part of the vilayet:—

The two opposing camps which were formed by the officials and notables of Diarbekir on account of the differences and controversies between the late Cadi (Ahmed Khuloosi Effendi) and Vali, during the tenure of office of the former, are still unfortunately

continuing. The party, which is opposed to his Excellency the Governor-General and to the Mutessarif, is trying by every conceivable means to obtain their dismissal. Its members constantly send petitions and telegrams to the Sublime Porte, complaining bitterly of the above-mentioned officials, and expose their maladministration in the Constantinople newspapers. Not satisfied with this, in order to excite the hatred of the population, within the last few days they have twice affixed placards on the walls of the most frequented parts of the town, informing the public that the Government is entirely impotent to do anything. The placards contain very foul and abusive language against the above-mentioned functionaries. The Government in Constantinople is more or less acquainted with these goings on, but nevertheless (I do not know why) takes no measure either to look into or put a stop to these unpleasant affairs, which may have a serious consequence in a place like this, where the people having no sound judgment cannot judge the matter on its own merits.

The officers of justice mostly take side with the Governor-General; consequently they, too, are equally attacked by the opposite party. The Minister of Justice, to his Excellency's honour be it said, as soon as he became acquainted with the proceedings of some of these officials, acted very promptly and justly, dismissed first the Procureur-Général, then the President of the Court of First Instance, and the day before yesterday the Inspector of Justice also was dismissed. The latter was not a bright ornament of the administration.

There are two persons in the Department of Justice who, as far as I know, are intelligent and honest, namely, the Second President of the Court of Appeal and the Assistant Procureur-Général. These two are strongly opposed by the Vali's party. Last summer a serious accusation was brought against the Assistant-Procureur, and an order for his trial came from Constantinople. Amongst a great many adversaries he has been able to prove his innocence, on which his great foe, the Procureur-Général (who was a notoriously corrupt man), was dismissed, and a general reprimand was sent by the Minister of Justice to those who had taken part in this accusation. Now there is another accusation against him, and his trial is ordered again. I think he will be able to come out as clear as before. In that case I hope the Minister of Justice will cause the promotion of this tried servant to the vacant post of Procureur-Général as a reward for his honesty.

The Rajkotan tribes are again occupying themselves with their own trade, roving about and plundering the helpless villages of Bisheri. I hear that by exaction and pillage they have got a large sum from the poor people. The Mutessarif of Sert, who is said to be the real cause of this fresh devastation, is marching now with some troops against them, as also the Alay-Bey of this place, but the people have not much faith in them: they say (and have some ground for saying) they will get money from Rajkotanlis, and leave them free to do what they like. This fear, as I said, is not without ground, for a great many times, within the last few years, they did the same, and their Chief, Mustaye-Kuto, was arrested by Abédine Pasha, and sent to exile with the other Kurdish Chiefs; in one way or other he effected his escape from Sivas; though notice were given in time no one cared to arrest him.

All the other exiled Kurdish Chiefs have been pardoned, and returned one after another to their homes. The poor people, in order to show their respect and sympathy, are obliged to send or bring them presents. What their behaviour will be hereafter no one can tell; it depends entirely on the Government here.

A rumour reached this from Kharput, Bitlis, &c., to the effect that the Government is contemplating bringing the money down to its real value, *i.e.*, the lira to 88 piastres, and the medjidieh to 17 piastres, and intends abolishing entirely the circulation of the debased money; the panic was very great among the people. The price of everything got higher at once; business which was already greatly crippled altogether stopped. They are beginning to feel a little easy now, but the panic has not passed altogether.

The continual drought of the winter, which was causing anxiety for the coming harvest, has been dispelled for the present, as it has been raining for the last forty-eight hours.

A Roman Catholic priest about a fortnight ago embraced Mahomedanism; he has four children under age, the eldest being only thirteen. The Capuchin Missionaries took three of the children (for the eldest went with his father), and put them under the charge of the French Vice-Consul. The father and the authorities demanded the children, but the French Vice-Consul declined to give them up. Of course both the Mahommedans and Christians make a good deal of the case; a few days ago there was a fear of a disturbance about this affair. I took upon myself to advise his Excellency the Vali and the other party, before taking any measure, to refer the case to Constantinople for instruction; I suppose they did so. Thus, for the present, an unpleasant event has been averted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS BOYAJIAN.

No. 81.

Earl Granville to Lord Ampthill.

E
(No. 158. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, April 21, 1882.*

COUNT HERBERT BISMARCK called upon me this afternoon by appointment, and I took the opportunity to remind him of the language which I had held to him in January last (as related in my despatch No. 13 of the 16th of that month) with regard to the question of reforms in Armenia. I said that Her Majesty's Government had followed the course of policy which I had at that time indicated. We had endeavoured, as much as possible, to leave to the Sultan the initiative in the introduction of reforms. This initiative His Majesty had unfortunately not taken. He had not even fulfilled his promise of selecting good men as Governors of the provinces. If we had suggested that Englishmen or even Christians should be appointed to these posts, it would have been intelligible that he should hesitate. But his neglect to appoint honest and capable Mahommedans could, as far as I could see, be attributed only to his great jealousy of anyone of capacity and high reputation. We did not, however, I said, abandon the policy, which we had publicly announced, of endeavouring to secure the complete fulfilment of the Treaty of Berlin in this as in other matters. We were still convinced that reforms were necessary if the Turkish Empire was to be saved from dissolution. We were well aware that with so sensitive a man as the present Sovereign of Turkey importunity and persistent remonstrance was not the most judicious course, and we were equally aware how difficult it was for any single Power to exercise a commanding influence in such a matter without having recourse to force. We had the greatest confidence in Lord Dufferin's judgment and tact, and believed that he would only take the best and most favourable opportunities of carrying his point in regard to the improvement of the administration in Asia Minor. We were therefore willing to leave him full discretion as to the time and mode of his representations on the subject. But because we refrained from injudicious persistency it must not be supposed that we had abandoned our views as to the necessity of reforms, or given up the policy we had adopted.

I then spoke of the assistance which Germany might give in the matter. I said that I did not expect Prince Bismarck to go beyond the limits which he had laid down for himself, but that it was possible for the German Representative at Constantinople to give Lord Dufferin considerable moral support, and that such support would be very valuable.

Count Bismarck said that all the German Government could do was to endeavour to persuade the Sultan that the advice given by England was in the real interest of Turkey. It was true that Germany had now a certain amount of influence at Constantinople, which was useful in the cause of general peace, but the German Government knew how easily they might lose this influence, and they felt the necessity of caution in making use of it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 82.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 207.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, April 25, 1882.*

WITH reference to your despatch No. 250 of the 2nd instant, in which you state your reasons for not referring to the Armenian question during your last audience with the Sultan, I have to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government approve the course which you took on that occasion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 83.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received April 28, 12·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 28, 1882, 11 A.M.*

I HAVE been informed, on pretty good authority, that it is the intention of the Sultan to appoint a special Ministerial Department, presided over by Said Pasha, ex-Governor of the Archipelago, charged with the duty of elaborating and administrating a plan of general internal reforms for Anatolia; but as yet the Porte has no official knowledge of the fact.

No. 84.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 212.) *Foreign Office, April 28, 1882.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to your despatch No. 152 of the 3rd ultimo, forwarding despatches from Mr. Biliotti in regard to Laz emigration, and a Petition addressed to him by the Laz Chiefs, in which they complain that the Russian Government have not acted in conformity with the Treaty of Berlin as regards their right to dispose of their lands, I have to point out to your Excellency that no stipulation on the subject exists in the Treaty, and that Her Majesty's Government could not, therefore, undertake to make any representations to the Russian Government in regard to the grievances complained of by the Lazes.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 85.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received May 1.)

(No. 203.) *Constantinople, April 24, 1882.*

My Lord,

IN my despatch No. 67 of the 31st January last, I had the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Biliotti, describing the general state of disorder that prevailed at Trebizond, and calling particular attention to the case of a young Bey who had dangerously wounded a Greek, and who was found not guilty by the Court of First Instance.

I have now the honour to transmit to your Lordship a further despatch from Mr. Biliotti on this subject, reporting that, by the order of the Governor-General and the Judicial Inspector, an appeal was lodged against the above sentence of the Court of First Instance, and that the case was retried. The Bey in question failed to answer the summons of the Court of Appeal, and being tried by default was only sentenced to two months' imprisonment and 2,000 piastres damages.

He is, however, still at large, the authorities having failed to apprehend him.

I took an opportunity recently of calling Assim Pasha's attention to the state of affairs at Trebizond, as described by Mr. Biliotti, and mentioned the young Bey's case as an instance of the partial manner in which justice is administered in that town.

His Excellency seemed quite disposed to take the matter up, and asked me to obtain the name of the Bey in question, in order that he may take the necessary steps to insure his punishment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 85.

Consul A. Biliotti to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 16.) *Trebizond, April 4, 1882.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 2 of the 9th January last, I have the honour to report that the case of the young Bey who had dangerously wounded a Greek was, about a month ago, tried at the Court of First Instance, when the Turk was found not guilty and the Greek condemned to pay the expenses of the trial.

It is easy to conceive the baneful impression which this iniquitous finding of the Court produced in this town.

Though the Greek lodged an appeal, both the Governor-General and the Judicial Inspector, ashamed of the conduct of the Court of First Instance, decided that a similar step should be adopted *ex officio*, which was accordingly done.

The young Bey in question failing to answer the summons of the Court of Appeal, an order for apprehension was issued against him. His father having called on the Public Prosecutor told him that his son was in his house, and would like to see who would dare to apprehend him, and ended by affronting the officer in question in his public character.

An order for the apprehension of the father was also issued, but subsequently withdrawn on the intervention of forty or fifty Mussulman notabilities of the town.

The son was tried by default in the Court of Appeal, and condemned to only two months' imprisonment and 2,000 piastres damages, which sum appears to be the amount of the surgeon's bill. Extenuating circumstances were admitted in his favour, it having been proved, it would seem, to the satisfaction of the Court, that there was an old grudge between them, and that the Greek had provoked him by some unpleasant word.

But the young Bey being still at large the sentence cannot be executed, and it would seem that his father intends to send the affair to Constantinople for revision. I am told, however, that as he has been given to understand that his son might be condemned to a more severe penalty, he may give up his intention.

However, the case of the Bey in question is, I believe, a good illustration of how justice is distributed in the provinces when local magnates are at stake.

I may here mention, as a striking contrast, the case of a Greek of Kara-hissar, who, at the request of the authorities of Siwas, was apprehended a few months back on board a Russian steamer which conveyed him to Batoum. He had been described by the Governor-General of Siwas as a notorious criminal, against whom there were numerous charges of the most serious character. He was landed and lodged in prison, and for a month and a half numerous telegrams were exchanged between Trebizond and Siwas, at the end of which time he was released, it having been discovered at last that though there was no error of identity of person, there was no charge against him that could be substantiated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 86.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received May 2, 2·20 P.M.)

(No. 68.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 2, 1882, 1·15 P.M.*

THE Vali of Diarbekir has been dismissed, and has been succeeded by Marshal Saneih Pasha, of whom I hear a pretty good account.

No. 87.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 99.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 3, 1882, 5·40 P.M.*

YOUR telegram No. 68.

Express satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government at dismissal of Vali.

No. 88.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received May 8.*)

(No. 302.) *Constantinople, April 29, 1882.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a Memorandum I have received from the Armenian Patriarch on the subject of certain acts of oppression alleged to have been committed on the Christians of the districts of Van and Zeitoun, as well as a petition addressed to Her Majesty the Queen by the ex-Armenian Patriarch of Constantinople, Archbishop Krimian, with regard to the condition of the Province of Van.

I have communicated these documents to Major Trotter, for his information, and inclose a copy of a despatch I have received from him containing his observations on them.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 88.

Memorandum communicated by Armenian Patriarch, April 27.

Vasbouragan (*Van*).

L'ASSEMBLÉE Nationale Représentative Arménienne de la province de Vasbouragan rapporte, dans sa lettre datée du $\frac{14}{26}$ Février de l'année courante, ce qui suit:—

"Depuis la conclusion du Traité de Berlin les actes de brigandage et de pillage se sont redoublés en Arménie. L'Article LXI de ce même Traité a jusqu'ici demeuré comme lettre-morte, et l'état déplorable de ces localités s'est aggravé encore une fois par suite des maux invétérés et l'oppression ouverte des fonctionnaires administratifs.

"Le Christianisme jadis constituait l'unique objet de la persécution et de la haine constantes envers les Chrétiens Arméniens par la race dominante; l'Article en question l'a irrité encore de plus, de sorte qu'à l'heure qu'il est, si une main secourable ne vient pas nous soulager dans nos détresses de plus en plus croissantes, il est de toute probabilité que l'Article LXI du Traité de Berlin va devenir l'épitaphe de ces vastes contrées. Nos plaintes ont été considérées comme des fables par ceux qui n'ont pas subi un sort si funeste.

"La population souffrante de Bulgarie a retrouvé le salut dans ses misères. La destinée nous a-t-elle réservé de gémir sous les yeux de l'Europe Chrétienne à l'instar des troupeaux qui sont abandonnés à la merci des loups affamés?

"L'Arménie sera éternellement reconnaissante à celui dont la main vigoureuse et charitable lui viendra en aide.

"Nous souhaitons que Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, notre auguste Souverain, tient à cœur et s'empresse de réorganiser le pays, eu égard à la fidélité qui nous lie, comme nos pères, à son trône. Nous confions notre destinée à la sollicitude paternelle de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan et à la haute miséricorde des grandes Puissances Chrétiennes avec l'espoir que notre auguste Souverain daignera, sans prêter foi aux accusations dénuées de tout fondement de certains fonctionnaires intéressés et malveillants, ordonner l'accomplissement immédiat des désirs sincères de ses sujets fidèles, et les grandes Puissances Chrétiennes auront l'extrême faveur d'en surveiller l'application ponctuelle.

"Bien que les derniers événements nous aient portés à la conviction intime qu'il ne nous reste d'autre moyen que de nous abandonner à la pitié du Ciel, cependant les négociations infructueuses engagées dernièrement par rapport à l'exécution de l'Article en question, nous mettent en devoir d'exposer encore une fois notre déplorable situation à la charité des grandes Puissances Signataires du dit Traité.

"Les derniers recensements ont largement prouvé que la population Arménienne de Vasbouragan constitue la majorité absolue dans ces vastes contrées, suivants lesquels le nombre des Arméniens atteint le chiffre de 137,000; celui des Syriens-Nestoriens au nombre de 86,768; celui des Kurdes au nombre de 42,270, et celui des Turcs au nombre de 19,835, &c.

"Nous regrettons que les Tableaux statistiques concernant les Vilayets de Van et de Moush, dressés dernièrement par les soins de M. le Major Trotter, se trouvent loin d'exactitude. Les données statistiques recueillies par M. le Colonel Clayton, Consul Britannique de Van, l'attestent ouvertement, et nous ne croyons pas, en tous cas, que l'application intégrale de la justice soit relevée, dans la pensée des Puissances, des chiffres.

"Le monde entier reconnaît que l'agriculture, le commerce, les arts, et l'industrie de Van se trouvent dans la main des Arméniens. Quant aux Syriens-Nestoriens et les Kurdes, les premiers s'occupent du traitement des bestiaux, et se sont groupés dans les districts de Djoulamerg et de Guiavar, et les derniers suivent toujours leurs tristes exploits de vol, de meurtre, et de brigandage.

"Les Arméniens, dotés de tous les avantages pour former une population tranquille et progressiste, sont toujours privés de tout droit.

"Depuis la signature du Traité de Berlin, et surtout durant ces derniers mois, où l'Article LXI paraît avoir repris un nouvel élan devant le monde diplomatique, rien ne se présente sous une couleur plus sombre, et le cours des choses va de mal en pis. Les cas suivants prouveront amplement ce que nous venons de constater.

"Les rênes de l'Administration des vilayets en général sont toujours réservées et confiées à l'élément Turc, sans tenir compte de la prédominance de l'élément Chrétien formant la majorité absolue sur la population locale.

"Le Gouvernement Central a dernièrement destitué, sans raison plausible, le Conseiller Arménien du Vali de Van, et il a suivi partout la même ligne de conduite. Plusieurs autres fonctionnaires Chrétiens de divers Départements ont été destitués et remplacés par des Turcs. Le Gouverneur actuel, Hassan Pacha, est célèbre par ses actes de fanatisme. Depuis sa nomination à ce poste éminent il y a cinq ans, les méfaits sont encouragés et les malfaiteurs appuyés.

"Tous les Départements administratifs de la province, tels que Mutessarif, Defterdar, Mektoubdji, Procureur-Général et son substitut, Président et Membres des Tribunaux, &c., sont absolument occupés par l'élément Turc et Kurde; et notamment, ils sont choisis parmi ceux qui ont été le fléau du pays et de la population, tels que Timour-Oghlou, Khourshid Bey, Tahar Bey, &c. Ainsi, la justice n'est qu'un nom dérisoire dans la main de ces malfaiteurs.

"Les Arméniens qui s'adressent aux Tribunaux pour avoir le justice sont, il est regrettable d'avouer, opprimés d'une manière ouverte, et les plaignants sont obligés à renoncer à leurs griefs.

"Le droit de la population Chrétienne est toujours sacrifié au tort des Turcs et des Kurdes. Il ne lui est pas permis non plus de recourir à la référence, vu qu'elle va être jugée par devant des Tribunaux qui sont d'avance mal disposés à son égard; et l'appel à la justice du Chrétien est toujours étouffé.

"L'application des réformes s'attirerait pour le moment la confiance publique si elles étaient basées sur les principes fondamentaux de la justice et de l'égalité. Rien ne prouve l'exécution consciencieux des mesures prises à l'effet de la réorganisation de ces contrées, et, au contraire, plusieurs fonctionnaires Chrétiens ont été tout dernièrement destitués sous des subterfuges dénués de tout fondement.

"Il est également regrettable que la voix de la population n'est à jamais comptée dans l'organisation de l'administration provinciale. L'élection des membres des Tribunaux ainsi que la nomination du personnel aux différents postes administratifs dépendent du bon plaisir du Gouverneur.

"La gendarmerie laisse beaucoup à désirer, et les employés chargés à cet effet oppriment la population Chrétienne avec la même cruauté que les Kurdes.

"La perception des impôts ne se fait non plus d'une manière juste et loyale. Les dommages subis par la population Chrétienne sont considérables. Les percepteurs suivent toujours, sans tenir compte des cas de mort, d'émigrés, les données des registres dressés antérieurement, et accablent la population de s'en acquitter le montant.

"Les arriérés des expatriés se trouvent également à la charge de ceux qui ont gardé le foyer paternel.

"Les maux impunis subis par la population de la part des autorités et des hordes sauvages l'ont tellement affligée, qu'elle est parvenue à la conviction intime que le Gouvernement Impérial, loin de remédier à sa situation lamentable, s'est animé par excès-zèle de dépeupler l'Arménie de ses propres fils, avec l'intention de diminuer ainsi l'élément Chrétien.

"La perception des impôts fonciers est excessivement injuste. Le taux de la

taxe payée sur une propriété la dépasse en sa valeur. Cette rigueur ne se commette que sur les possessions des Chrétiens.

"Il est défendu ouvertement aux Chrétiens l'achat de terrains, et, au contraire, le Turc ou le Kurde sont aidés par l'autorité pour s'en procurer.

"Il est rigoureusement défendu aux Chrétiens le port d'armes, et même de les garder chez lui pour se défendre contre les aggressions des hordes sauvages. Il est regrettable d'ajouter, au contraire, qu'il est permis au Turc et au Kurde de s'armer jusqu'aux dents, même lorsqu'ils se présentent par devant les Tribunaux.

"Les maux invétérés du Christianisme souffrant d'Arménie sont flagrants et dignes de haute compassion. Nous comptons sur la miséricorde du Très-Haut, et sur la sollicitude des Grandes Puissances Signataires de l'Article LXI du Traité de Berlin.

"Nous avons terminé notre aperçu et nous concluons qu'il est impossible, sous le régime actuel gouvernemental, d'installer les bases d'un Gouvernement propre à rendre aux gouvernés les droits de vivre, d'honneur, et de biens. Aucune mesure ne pourra donner pleine satisfaction, dans l'intérêt du Gouvernement Impérial et de celui de la nation, à tous les exigences des besoins locaux dans ces vastes contrées, que l'application d'un Statut Organique à l'instar de celui de la Roumélie-Orientale ou à celui de Liban.

"La population Arménienne de Vasbouragan en confiant sa destinée à la haute compassion de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan et des Grandes Puissances Signataires de l'Acte solennel de 1878, sollicite chaleureusement et anxieusement, dans son extrême détresse, leur puissante intervention pour mettre un terme aux flagrants délits auxquels elle se trouve journellement en butte.

Au nom de l'Assemblée Nationale Représentative
de la Province de Van :
Ex-Patriarche Arménien de Constantinople,
(Signé) Archevêque KRIMIAN.

Cilicie (Zeytoun).

Les Soussignés, Notables de Zeytoun, ont l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de votre Excellence ce qui suit :—

Les réformes en onze Articles, promises par les Commissaires Impériaux à introduire à Zeytoun, ont été restées jusqu'ici lettre-morte.

Outre les autres, on n'a pas encore nommé le Caïmacam Arménien. On n'a fait rien pour le développement agraire. Les améliorations promises concernant la perception de la taxe de vigne, de la dime, &c., ne sont pas jusqu'ici réalisées.

Des émigrés Tcherkesses ont été installés sur les frontières et nos environs. Leur présence a compromis la paix dans ces localités, et les agresseurs, restés impunis, sont encouragés davantage dans leurs méfaits.

La caserne bâtie tout dernièrement à Zeytoun est de jour en jour fortifiée par le renvoie de soldats. Cela ne manque pas de but. Rien ne pourra arrêter la marche des événements.

Nous comptons sur la miséricorde du Très-Haut, et nous faisons appel à la sollicitude paternelle de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, convaincus qu'elle daignera sanctionner par sa haute ordonnance le projet de réformes en question ainsi que son application immédiate pour le bien-être de ses sujets fidèles, et la pacification de notre cher pays.

L'Archimandrite,
(Signé) STÉFAN AGHDJABEGUIAN.
Le Prêtre,
GHAZAR DER GHAZARIAN.
Le Prêtre,
MARDIROS DER MARDIROSSIAN.
Le Prêtre,
GARABET APIGUIAN.
Le Prêtre,
MARGOS DER MARGOSSIAN.
HAGOF GÉNIDUNIA.
BABIG GÉNIDUNIA.
HAGOF TIRINDJIAN.
SARKIS BOYAMIAN.

Zeytoun, le $\frac{6}{18}$ *Février*, 1882.

Inclosure 2 in No. 88.

Petition.

À Sa Gracieuse Majesté la Reine de la Grande-Bretagne et Impératrice des Indes, &c., &c.

Majesté,

AU nom de l'Arménie et des nombreuses populations de la Province de Van, le Soussigné prend respectueusement la liberté de déposer aux pieds de votre glorieux trône cette seconde supplique, dont la première, datée du 16 Mars, 1880, lui exposait la déplorable situation dans laquelle gémissent les Arméniens, sans pourtant perdre l'espoir de leur délivrance prochaine, grâce aux sentiments d'humanité et de Chrétienté qui animent votre miséricordieuse Majesté à l'égard des peuples opprimés.

C'est cette même situation menaçant ruine et anéantissement, qui oblige de nouveau le Soussigné de faire appel à la justice dont votre Gracieuse Majesté est la plus fidèle expression sur cette terre.

L'Article LXI du Traité de Berlin, qui concerne les réformes à appliquer en Arménie, loin de mettre un terme à nos oppressions, a servi, au contraire, à aggraver le triste état de choses dont la continuation achèverait certainement de nous anéantir.

Depuis que le dit Traité a été conclu aucun indice de justice, en quoi ce que soit, ne s'est manifesté de la part de la Sublime Porte. La haine envers les Chrétiens et le fanatisme règnent en souveraine dans les Administrations centrales, et cette circonstance encourage considérablement les malfaiteurs dans les œuvres criminelles.

Tandis que d'une part se poursuivent, depuis neuf mois, des négociations à propos de l'application des réformes, de l'autre, le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan semble se montrer irrésolu de reconnaître l'obligation résultant pour lui de l'Article LXI. Tous ses actes et menées relatifs à la question de réformes viennent, d'ailleurs, à l'appui de cette disposition, qui équivaudrait à l'annihilation de l'Article LXI du dit Traité.

Daignez, O Gracieuse Majesté, daignez entendre le cri de douleur et de désespoir des millions de Chrétiens Arméniens qui tournent leurs regards anxieux vers le pays libérateur, l'Angleterre.

Daignez, Majesté, dépêcher l'œuvre de l'amélioration de notre sort malheureux par la prompte introduction en Arménie des réformes appliquées en Roumélie-Orientale, car la situation ne souffre plus de retard, et si le puissant appui du Gouvernement de votre Majesté ainsi que la volonté sincère de Sa Majesté le Sultan venaient à hésiter plus longtemps à remédier à l'intolérable état des choses, il en résultera inévitablement de grands malheurs à déplorer, malheurs qui seront la conséquence de la non-exécution de l'Article LXI du Traité de Berlin. Les malheurs seront la seule récompense de la longanimité des Arméniens.

Mais non, Dieu ne le voudra pas! Le sentiment de haute justice et d'humanité qui caractérise votre Majesté ne désire point que l'Arménie se réduise à un immense tombeau de ses enfants! L'intérêt de la paix ne le voudra jamais.

Profondément pénétré de cette conviction, et fort de l'espoir de délivrance, le Soussigné appelle du fond de son âme les bénédictions du ciel sur l'auguste personne de votre Majesté ainsi que sur toute la famille Impériale et Royale d'Angleterre.

Le Soussigné, &c.

Pour le Conseil National Représentatif de la
Province de Van :
Ex-Patriarche Arménien de Constantinople,
(Signé) Archevêque KRIMIAN.

Van, Arménie, le $\frac{19}{31}$ *Février*, 1882.

Inclosure 3 in No. 88.

Major Trotter to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 13.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 29, 1882.

YOUR Lordship has done me the honour to forward certain documents connected with the Armenian question, and to invite my remarks thereon.

The first is a petition to Her Most Gracious Majesty on behalf of the Armenians of Van,* in which it is pointed out that the Turkish Government has as yet taken no

* Original and translation.

efficient steps towards carrying out the LXIst Article of the Treaty of Berlin, but that, on the contrary, the effect of that Article, instead of alleviating, has been to aggravate the position of the Armenians. An appeal is made to Her Majesty to cause the prompt introduction of the same reforms that have been introduced into Eastern Roumelia, failing which great misfortunes are anticipated.

The document emanates from the Armenian National Council at Van, and is signed by Archbishop Krimian, ex-Patriarch of Constantinople, now residing at Van, where he has great influence amongst the Armenian population.

The second document comes from the same source. It enters more into details, and alludes prominently to the fact that the very few Armenians who held official positions in the frontier provinces, have within the last few months been removed from their posts, and that the whole of the Administration Executive appointments are in the exclusive hands of the Mahommedans.

Figures are quoted to prove that the Armenian population in the province of Van is more than two-fold that of the Mahommedan (for a refutation of which statement see my despatch No. 3 to your Excellency dated the 29th September, 1881). The varied griefs under which the Armenians suffer are described in detail, and the same conclusion is come to that the only possible satisfactory solution of the Armenian difficulty is to be found in the application of an Organic Statute similar to that of Eastern Roumelia or of the Lebanon.

Although unable to admit the perfect accuracy of all the details stated, and reserving altogether the disputed question of population, I am of opinion that the broad facts as here given are in the main true, and that so far from the Armenians having obtained an amelioration of their condition since the signature of the Treaty of Berlin, the Turkish Government would appear more hostile than ever to the Armenian Christians in the frontier provinces—partly owing to jealousy of the proposed intervention of the European Powers, and partly owing to irritation felt against the Christians for openly invoking the assistance of those Powers, and for other acts of indiscretion.

As your Excellency is aware, the remedy proposed for the existing state of things by Sir Charles Wilson and myself is the introduction of a scheme of reforms actually based on the constitution given to the Lebanon; and I would venture here to repeat what we stated in submitting this scheme to your Lordship on the 23rd August last, viz., that "whilst of opinion that the introduction of radical reforms is absolutely necessary if a permanent settlement of the country is to be effected, and if all pretext for a further extension of the Russian frontier westward is to be removed, we believe that a great improvement might be made, so far as the preservation of law and order is concerned, if two good men were selected to act as Commissioners; if competent officials were appointed as Valis; and if an efficient mixed police force or gendarmerie were organized.

"Of equal importance is a provision that a portion of the annual revenue of each vilayet, sufficient to cover the cost of local administration and provide for the execution of public works, should be reserved, and applied to those services, without power of interference by the central authorities at Constantinople.

"If radical reforms are to be introduced, we think that two or more Commissioners should be appointed by the European Powers for a limited period. Such Commissioners should be officially accredited to the Turkish Commissioners, and watch the application of the reforms on behalf of the Powers."

The third document forwarded by your Excellency is a brief statement signed by the Armenian Notables of Zeitoun complaining of the non-fulfilment by the Porte of the promises made by the Imperial Commissioners. I have no personal knowledge of the Zeitounlis who are not within my Consular jurisdiction, but with reference thereto I would venture to ask your Lordship's attention to Colonel Sir C. Wilson's Memorandum of date the 11th November, 1881,* at the end of which he writes:—

"It is clear from the above that though the Government has not in all cases kept its promises, the Zeitoun people have equally failed to carry out their part of the agreement.

"The real fault, however, lies with the Turkish Government, which, since the winter of 1879, has left Zeitoun affairs very much to manage themselves."

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

* Sent to Earl Granville in Lord Dufferin's despatch No. 1005, of November 15, 1881.

No. 89.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received May 8.)

E
(No. 312.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May 2, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the local newspapers announce that Saïd Pasha has been appointed Minister of Reforms for Asiatic and European Turkey.

For a long time the rumour has been current that several important personages, including Moukhtar Pasha and Saïd Pasha, the Prime Minister, were to be associated with him in the execution of the work in this new Department, but up to the present time the rumours have not been confirmed, nor is it quite certain whether the reforms are to be elaborated under the superintendence of a special Ministerial Department or of a Commission.

Saïd Pasha is described as having served with credit as Governor of Varna, Larissa, and other important places. He was appointed to Baker Pasha's Commission in Asia Minor in the spring of 1880. Shortly after his return he was appointed Governor-General of the Archipelago, and lately received his promotion to the rank of Vizier after fifteen years' employment in high administrative offices.

I am afraid, however, that neither the character nor the abilities of Saïd Pasha are such as to guarantee that there is a real and serious intention upon the part of the Sultan to embark upon a thorough system of reforms.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 90.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received May 15.)

(No. 325.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May 5, 1882.*

HAVING received a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Gathoral, at Angora, stating that the inhabitants of Istanos are in a starving condition, and inclosing a petition from them begging for assistance, I have laid the matter before Abdurahman Pasha, the Prime Minister, who was for a short time on the Famine Relief Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 91.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received May 15.)

(No. 328. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May 5, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch received here some time since from Mr. Eldridge, reporting on alleged French intrigues among the Metualis in the district south of the Lebanon, and among the Ansariyehs in the north, which may interest Her Majesty's Government, as showing the tendency of the present French Government to increase its influence in Syria.

I have made inquiries at the Porte, but have been unable to learn that anything is known there of the movements stated to be taking place among the mountain tribes in question. I venture, however, to draw your Lordship's attention to an interesting article on the subject which appeared in the "Fortnightly Review" of last month by Mr. M. V. Chirol, a gentleman who is well acquainted with the country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure 1 in No. 91.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 2. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Beyrout, January* 11, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that I have been privately informed that some time ago the Metualis of the districts to the south of the Lebanon (Saida, Sour, and Marj-Ayoun), prepared and forwarded, through the French Consul-General at Beyrout, a petition, addressed to the President of the French Republic, praying that they may enjoy the protection of France against the oppression which they allege they suffer at the hands of the Turkish Government.

Whether my French colleague has forwarded this document to his Government or not I cannot ascertain, but it has been confidentially intimated to me that this movement amongst the Metualis has been secretly encouraged by certain subaltern French agents, who have been in frequent communication with the Chiefs of this sect. The latter, it is said, have been told that the time may come when they will have the honour to fight the common enemy side by side with "les enfants de la France."

I mention this with all reserve; but taking all the circumstances as reported to me in connection with what I had the honour to report in my despatches No. 52 of the 6th November last and No. 55 of the 1st ultimo concerning the increase of French expenditure in Syria, they appear somewhat suspicious and significant.

The entire male population of these districts is roughly estimated at about 40,000, of which 28,000, or about two-thirds, are Metualis.

I have recently received a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Vitalé (of which I have the honour to inclose a copy), reporting certain intrigues amongst the Ansariyehs in the north, instigated by a Representative of a foreign Power (which I take to mean France), and if my surmise is correct, this adds to the importance of what I report in connection with the Metualis.

Should any further information reach me on these matters, I will not fail to report to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 91.

Vice-Consul Vitalé to Consul-General Eldridge.

M. le Consul-Général, *Lattakia, le 27 Décembre*, 1881.

J'AI l'honneur de vous informer que dans le mois de Juillet dernier les Ansaryehs de ce district furent invités par un de leurs chefs spirituels, nommé Cheik Ibrahim Gélié, qui habite Swédia (district d'Antioche), de donner leurs signatures en blanc, et que les émissaires du dit Cheik avaient réussi d'obtenir ainsi les signatures de la plupart des Chefs Ansaryehs de ce district en leur disant que c'était pour en faire une pétition dans l'intérêt de leur nation.

L'ex-Mutessarif ayant appris cette nouvelle, a fait des démarches pour connaître la vérité et le but de la pétition, mais il n'a pas réussi; il a su seulement que les signatures en blanc avaient été vraiment données, et il en a informé le Vali, son Altesse Hamdi Pasha.

Il paraît que ce dernier avait informé le Vali d'Alep de cet incident, car vers la mi-Septembre j'avais appris que Cheik Ibrahim Gélié avait été invité par ce dernier d'aller à Alep, et qu'en arrivant il fut mis en prison.

A la même époque plusieurs chefs spirituels Ansaryehs m'avaient prié d'intervenir auprès de notre Consul à Alep pour obtenir par son entremise la mise en liberté de Cheik Ibrahim, ce que j'ai refusé de faire parce qu'ils n'ont jamais voulu me dire le motif de son emprisonnement.

Depuis j'ai appris que le même Cheik Ibrahim Gélié a été envoyé, avec une escorte de plusieurs cavaliers, à Alexandrette, d'où il fut embarqué pour Acre, et maintenant j'apprends que le dit Cheik avait fait la pétition dont il est question, sous l'influence et les insinuations d'un Représentant d'une Puissance étrangère; mais je regrette que je n'ai pas encore pu arriver à apprendre le but de la pétition ni à connaître l'insinuant.

J'ai appris aussi, et le tout d'une source digne de foi, que plusieurs des signataires

de la dite pétition craignent tomber dans le sort de Cheik Ibrahim, et qu'ils ont ramassé de l'argent pour le lui envoyer pour l'aider à se libérer.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) N. VITALÉ.

No. 92.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received May 29.)

(No. 307.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May* 19, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from Lieutenant Bennet, reporting on the state of affairs in the Vilayet of Adana.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 92.

Lieutenant Bennet to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 10.)

My Lord, *Adana, May* 5, 1882.

THE Vali returned from his tour in the Jebel-Bereket Sandjak and eastern plain on the 23rd ultimo. On his way he visited Ayas Bay, and selected the site for a new port about a mile to the west of Yamurtalik, already indicated in my No. 8 as a suitable position; he informs me that, as there is no village there at present, it is necessary to obtain permission from the Porte before taking any steps, but he thinks there will be no obstacle, and that suitable depôts and houses will be shortly commenced. He remained several days in the Jebel-Bereket Sandjak, and has, I hope, done some good work there. The chief object of his visit was to make some arrangement for settling the Turkman tribes Tejerli and Djerid in the Osmanieh Caza, and the Kurdish tribes Delikhanli and Jelikhanli in the Islahia Caza, so that they should not wander off to the Taurus out of this vilayet in summer, as is their custom. I have always thought that room could be found for them in the mountains of their own sandjak, the Giaour Dagh.

In the time of Dervish Pasha these tribes were treated with revolting cruelty, their tents (they always lived under tents) were burnt, and they were forced to build villages on the plain and to live there always, the result being that their numbers were greatly reduced by death, the plains being very unhealthy in summer. Gradually the Government relaxed, and the people reverted to their old habits of wandering away north in the summer, but their arrival is always a source of anxiety to the inhabitants in the mountains, and I am glad to hear the Vali has allotted them "yailas" in the Giaour Dagh. The villages are being rebuilt, and agriculture is to be encouraged. Abédine Pasha is well aware of their past history, and can, I think, be trusted not to repeat the former inhumanity. He assures me the people are quite satisfied with the arrangements he has made.

The officials of the Jebel-Bereket Sandjak are a very hard lot, and I hope there will be several changes resulting from the Vali's visit. The Mufettish speaks almost hopelessly of the Justice Department. I shall be over a part of this sandjak next week, and shall know more.

The Vali returned to Adana by Kars Sis and Anazarba. At Kars he is going to bring some of the waters of the Sawroon through the town, by following the general line of an old canal. This will be a good work. He has also an idea of draining the plain near Anazarba, and the plain to the east of the Giaour Dagh, about Hassa and Islahia, and has sent the Chief Engineer, Signor Gramola, out to make the necessary surveys.

I fear the Vali is acquiring too much land; he has a property of about 5,000 acres near Selefkieh, 5,000 or 6,000 acres a few miles south-west of Adana, in the Agbah Marsh, and now I hear he has also made purchases at Osmanieh and Sis. He has spent a lot of money in preliminary expenses, the purchase of oxen, and drainage operations, and is said to have borrowed largely. He is not corrupt, but it does not look well for one in his position to go into farming operations to such an extent—first of all, because he cannot avoid the advantages of his position; secondly, because it gives him a bad name; and, thirdly, because it takes up too much of his time.

Most of the machinery ordered from the Messrs. Howard, of Bedford, has arrived at Musine—a steam-plough and traction-engine, cultivator, and threshing-machine; there is still another traction-engine to come, about which there is a temporary pecuniary difficulty. The operation of bringing the heavy portions to Adana is attended with difficulties, owing to the weakness of the bridges and the want of suitable transport vehicles. The native mechanic who went to England has also not returned as yet, so that the trial will not take place for a month or two. I still hope they will have a man out from England to start the machinery. The steam-plough is scarcely likely to be a success, even with efficient management; but it will be a pity to make a mess of steam-threshing, which is much required.

Messrs. Howard have sent out a representative of the firm, with simple agricultural implements, a reaper, several kinds of hand-ploughs, and harrows. Some of these seem well suited to the country. I have never been able to understand how it is that, in a district like this, a plain of over 1,500 square miles in area, a considerable portion of which is already under cultivation, bordered by the sea, and with by no means a low rate of wages, the Adamite plough and the threshing instrument spoken of by Isaiah still hold their own. The Messrs. Howard are the first in the field, and they will probably be followed by others. If English enterprise is not forthcoming, some one else will soon step in.

The harvest now promises fairly well; cotton and sesame should be very good.

The trial of the Circassians concerned in the violent robbery on Mr. Montgomery's party (American missionary), which occurred a year ago in the Bagtche Pass, is proceeding very unsatisfactorily. The case is being tried at Yarssuz, the seat of the Mutessarif of the Jebel-Bereket Sandjak, in whose district the robbery took place. The following is an extract from a letter I have received from Mr. Montgomery, who resides at Marash, three days' journey from Yarssuz. The letter is dated the 19th April:—

"In obedience to a summons from the Mutessarif at Yarssuz, my Dragoman, with two witnesses, appeared there on the 6th March, and requested that the trial proceed. It was only with the greatest difficulty that the Court could be convened at all. The President was very conveniently sick, and the other members could do nothing. But after two or three days delay the Court came together, and then the prisoners flatly refused to obey the summons to appear, and the President coolly said, 'What can I do? I cannot force them.' The reason was, that they needed an advocate from Sivas, and could not be tried until he was sent for. Did not the President of the Court or the prosecutor know that they were entitled to such an advocate before he summoned me? and why did he not secure the lawyer's presence beforehand, if necessary? My Dragoman afterwards sent in a petition to the Court asking that the trial be proceeded with, which the Government refused to accept or register, and finding he could do nothing he returned to Marash. Week before last I received another summons to be present at the trial at Yarssuz, signed by the Mutessarif of Marash, one day after the day on which the trial was to have commenced at Yarssuz. Comment on this is unnecessary. My Dragoman, while in Yarssuz, was told by the Court that neither the zaptieh nor my servant who went with him could be witnesses, because the former had lost his horse by these robbers and the latter was my servant."

I have represented this case more than once to the authorities here; the Vali is a good hand at catching robbers, but neither he nor the Mufettish seem to be able to deal with the incorrigible slackness and venality which exist in all the Law Courts.

There were two very bad murders in and near Adana during the Vali's absence; in one case the murderer was arrested, in the other he escaped.

The President of the Criminal Court of Appeal here, Hafuz Effendi, has been appointed Mufettish at Diarbekir: opinions are divided as to his character, but I have nothing to say in his favour.

Locust eggs have been found in the mountains a few hours north-west of Tarsus, but they are supposed to have been collected and destroyed.

The Census is now being taken in this vilayet; it will take about three months to complete.

The attempt to put an end to the bad or fictitious value of money has ended in a failure; so many inconveniences were found to arise that the people soon went back to the old system.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FERDINAND BENNET.

No. 93.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received June 5.*)

(No. 383.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May 23, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch I have received from Lieutenant Chermside, reporting on the visit of a Russian functionary to the Tribal Chaldeans between Van and Mossul, as well as on the condition of that part of the country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 93.

Lieutenant Chermside to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 1.)
My Lord, *Diarbekir, April 16, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that a civil employé of the Russian Political Bureau at Tiflis visited some of the Chaldean tribes of the Kurdistan mountains during the past winter.

His name is T. Youzefovitch, and he speaks both Turkish and Arabic, having been in the Consular service at Jerusalem and Damascus, and been Consul at Widdin.

During the late war he served on the Danube in the Political Department.

He proceeded from Tiflis to Van, thence to Bash-kaleh, and through Hakkiari by the Valley of the Zab to Ameydieh, and thence to Mossul, whence, after a short stay, he returned by a regular route through Rowanduz to Sogluk Bulak in Persia, and thence to Tiflis. The Tiyari and Tkhuba, two of the principal tribes of the Chaldeans, are at variance with their Patriarch, Mar Shimun, an ignorant, inactive man, of dissolute habits.

In 1879 these two tribes wished to send an emissary to Tiflis. Mar Shimun declined to give him a letter, as, having been in communication with the English Primate, he considered himself protected by the English Government!

A priest was dispatched direct to Tiflis by the tribes.

It is possible M. Youzefovitch is the return emissary.

1. Although he passed close to Mar Shimun's village he did not visit him, neither did he visit Julamerk, within 4 miles of which he passed.

2. On arrival at the junction of the Tkhuba and Tiyar districts, although professedly on his way to Mossul with all dispatch, he took up his quarters in a church or convent, and, telling his escort each day that he was indisposed from the cold, and would go on the next day, remained there about a week.

3. During this time he was visited by all the influential men of Tiyar, and, I believe, by those of Tkhuba; the three Chiefs of Tiyar—Meleks Daniel, Tatu, and Sacho—and priests and others visited him to my knowledge, and there was a great gathering.

4. I believe this to have been pre-arranged, for, no sooner had he arrived at this spot, than the news spread very rapidly, and men at once set off long distances in the depth of winter to see him. I was travelling in the neighbourhood, and was surprised to meet numerous parties all bound for the same place, and to find from what remote places the Headmen had promptly set off to visit a traveller unexpectedly detained by cold for an uncertain period.

One of the said Headmen, although he had been two days' journey over the mountains to see the Russian, declined to come a quarter of a mile to see me.

The tribal Chaldeans are exceedingly disaffected to the Ottoman Government, and at the present time, in view of the Turkish intention of organizing these districts on the general model, their disaffection is likely to be all the more pronounced; as, while, on the one hand, they have had from time to time some experience of Turkish officials and tax-gatherers, and have all they can do to hold their own against the Kurds, on the other, they have still practical autonomy, the advantages of which, from the contrast of their own condition with that of the organized (and consequently ruined) districts around them, they are not likely to underrate.

As your Lordship must be aware, these tribes are armed mountaineers. Their region is one of considerable strategical importance, in certain contingencies, of a Russian advance.

The seven tribal districts do not, I believe, contain more than 40,000 Christian inhabitants—at the outside, 60,000.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

No. 94.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received June 5.)

(No. 386.)
Constantinople, May 25, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a copy of a despatch from Sir Charles Wilson, giving the substance of letters which he has received from Mr. Garabed Tchetchian, his Dragoman at Sivas.

The removal of Hakki Pasha has evidently been productive of good results, and the new Vali seems to be acting with vigour and energy.

Roads in the interior of the vilayet have been commenced, the streets in the city are being cleansed and paved, and arrears of pay, pensions, &c., are being gradually paid up, while strenuous efforts are being made by the Vali to improve the state of the Law Courts, which have hitherto formed the subject of universal complaint.

Mr. Tchetchian further reports that Mehemet Ali has been dismissed from his appointment as President of the Refuge Commission, a step which, it appears, has given satisfaction to every one.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 94.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir C. Wilson to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 19.)
Smyrna, May 16, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, for your Excellency's information, the substance of letters which I have received from Mr. Garabed Tchetchian, my Dragoman at Sivas.

Letter dated the 12th April, 1882.—The new Vali is succeeding slowly, but steadily, in gaining the goodwill of the people, Moslem and Christian, as well as of the officials. The Samsún road has been commenced at Amasia and Tocat, and the Sivas section will soon be taken in hand. The payment of the small pensions, due to soldiers' widows, is continuing; besides this the pay of the zaptiehs, and the salaries of officials, which were many months in arrear, are now being paid. I have heard, from a trustworthy source, that in one month the Vali paid for salaries, pensions, &c., £T. 4,500, and that he has sent no money to Constantinople since his arrival. I have also heard that he has severely reprimanded the Inspector of Justice for remaining always at Sivas, instead of travelling in the vilayet to inquire into the state of the Courts, and try to save them from the hands of the corrupt officials, against whom many complaints are brought. He told the inspector that these were his duties, and that if he neglected them, he would be obliged to report him to Constantinople.

The Vali has also made efforts to clean the streets, and, in some cases, to pave them. Many of the streets, especially those covered with mud and rubbish, have now been cleaned, and sand has been thrown down to prevent their again becoming muddy. The Vali has ordered the Kiayas, Headmen of quarters at Sivas, to inform the Government if any persons of bad character reside in their quarters. This measure has produced a good effect.

Letter dated the 24th April, 1882.—I have much pleasure in informing you that, last week, the Vali suddenly dismissed Mehemet Ali from the Presidency of the Refugee Commission, and appointed in his place Eylié Zadé, who, though a recognized friend of Mehemet Ali's, does not seem to be as bad or as influential.

The Refugee Commission, which was but a nominal one with Mehemet Ali at its head, doing what he pleased, has been reorganized, and now contains, I am informed, six members. I need hardly say that the removal of Mehemet Ali has given great satisfaction to every one.

It is, I think, very satisfactory to find that the removal of Hakki Pasha has been

productive of so much good. The letters show, too, how much can be done when the Governor-General of a vilayet really exerts himself, and acts with energy. I trust that the marked improvement in the government of the Sivas Vilayet may continue, and that it may soon recover from the state of chaos into which it fell on the departure of Abédine Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

No. 95.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received June 5.)

(No. 387.)
Constantinople, May 26, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch from Major Everett, in which he reports that he has received petitions from two villages in the Chanous district, stating that ninety families are desirous of joining the Church of England, and begging for protection and a priest.

Major Everett also states that Dr. Wahl, who recently passed through Erzeroum, informed him that about 100 families in the neighbourhood of Bitlis have expressed the same wish, but he considers that the motive which influences the majority in this desire is the hope of obtaining protection of Her Majesty's Consuls, and of thus escaping from an oppression which is gradually reducing even the wealthier portion of the agricultural community to poverty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 95.

Major Everett to Major Trotter.

(No. 8.)
Erzeroum, May 6, 1882.

Sir,

I BEG to inform you that I have received petitions from Heramig and Chavirma, villages in the district of Chanous, stating that sixty-five families in the former village and twenty-five families in the latter are desirous of joining the Church of England, and begging for protection and a priest. I have replied, merely saying that the request has been made known to you.

It is not the first time that I have heard of such a desire. Not very long ago my attention was called to an article in an American publication, alluding to some representations of a similar nature which had been made to the ecclesiastical authorities at home by a clergyman of the Church of England, who had been travelling in Anatolia. In this article the writer deprecated any interference of the Church of England in the country.

The Rev. Rudolph Wahl, also, who passed through Erzeroum about the middle of last month, on his way to Constantinople, mentioned to me that many hundred houses in the neighbourhood of Bitlis had the same wish.

With regard to the above-mentioned petitions, although some few people may be sincere in the desire therein expressed, I think that the motive which influences the majority is the hope of obtaining protection from our Consuls.

A traveller who has just returned from a journey through the districts of Passin and Chanous, and whose information is perfectly reliable, informs me that the people are ready to go in for anything that may offer them a chance of escape from an oppression which is gradually reducing even the wealthier agriculturists to great poverty. In the Passin there is a very general desire to emigrate into Russia. (See my despatch No. 2 of the 21st February.)

An incident that is much to be regretted has recently occurred in Erzingan. An Armenian Protestant, by name Donatosian, a teacher in the schools, was to have started for this place on the 17th April, to study here during the summer with the American missionaries, with a view to his being sent in the autumn to the college at Kharput.

The day before his departure he was arrested and imprisoned on a charge of sending the Vartabed (Archdeacon) of that place a letter threatening to kill him.

The letter was delivered by a Kurd, who was afterwards sent with the Vartabed's servant to endeavour to identify the man who gave it him. He identified Donatosian, who was then brought before the Vartabed. The Vartabed accused Donatosian of having written him the letter, but offered to say nothing more about it if he would render him the accustomed homage of kissing his hands and feet. This offer was made in the presence of several witnesses, and was refused by Donatosian, who at the same time denied the charge. Donatosian was then imprisoned and examined. It appears that the Kurd lived in a village some two hours from Erzingan, and had on that day come into the town with wheat for the Vartabed.

Although Donatosian could produce ample evidence that he was elsewhere between the time that the Kurd came into the town and the time of the Kurd identifying him, it was not admitted in Court. The result of the examination arrived here yesterday, and is to the effect that Donatosian is guilty.

The general opinion entertained by the Protestants is, that the affair is only a sequel to the persecutions which, for some time past, they have been suffering at the hands of the Vartabed and the Armenians of Erzingan. The Vartabed appears to be a bitter enemy, not only of Protestantism, but of all sects of the Christian religion other than his own. On one occasion he is reported to have preached publicly against them, the result being the pelting with stones of their place of worship, the maltreatment of their Bible seller, and other insults. The apathy of the Mutessarif, to whom representations have frequently been made, but without obtaining any satisfaction, has emboldened their aggressors.

Shortly after this last occurrence the Rev. R. Chambers went down to Erzingan to make inquiries into the matter. He returned yesterday. He feels perfectly assured that the whole affair has been got up against Donatosian by certain Gregorian Armenians, and he seems quite persuaded of Donatosian's innocence, a persuasion which, he says, is shared not only by the Protestant community of that town, but by many Armenian Gregorians.

I cannot offer an opinion on the subject at present, but I have looked over a copy of the examination which Mr. Chambers brought back with him, and it appears to me that there will be no difficulty in showing the statement of the Kurd to have been entirely false.

I shall probably make a further Report on this matter later on, and in the meanwhile, I am giving, unofficially, all possible aid to the missionaries to clear up the case.

The Vali starts on the 8th instant for Baibart, but it is not known at present whether he will visit other districts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

No. 96.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received June 12.*)

(No. 411. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, June 2, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch from Mr. Gatheral, describing a tour he has recently made in certain parts of the vilayet of Angora, and reporting the discontent and dissatisfaction with the present Government that exists among the inhabitants of the districts that he visited.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 96.

Acting Vice-Consul Gatheral to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 145. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Angora, May 27, 1882.*

IN a recent tour which I made in the district of Kurshehr, Yuzgat, Sungurlu, and Haudeu, I had many opportunities of personal intercourse with the villagers. I have

to report a very deep-seated dissatisfaction with the present Government, and an utter hopelessness of any improvement. Even among what might be called fanatical Turks, expressions of discontent and a desire of change were very freely made. The causes of this dissatisfaction are the severe pressure of taxation, which takes even the cooking-utensils and bedding of the peasant who is unable to pay. The impossibility of obtaining redress and justice in the local Courts, the want of protection from thieves, and, above all, the miserable tales of hardships, sufferings, ill-usage, with want of pay which the returned soldiers bring back to their villages. One poor father told us that one of his sons had recently returned in such a state of rags and misery that he was ashamed to enter his village until after nightfall.

Two peasants who escorted me, while sketching a ruined mosque in Kurshehr, told me that they knew why I was sketching—that I was taking note of the dilapidated condition of the edifice, so that when the English came they might find out who had appropriated the endowments, punish them, and restore the edifice. This is a sample of a feeling which is very general in Asia Minor. I found the deepest dissatisfaction among the people who call themselves "Alevi," or, as called by the Turks, "Kizilbachi." These people, who form a very large proportion of the agricultural population of the districts of Maaden, Sungurlu, and Yuzgat, which, conforming outwardly to Moslem customs and institutions, curse the Turks, and state that they have an unequal share of the burthens borne by the poor peasantry of the country. In one village where I stayed, although my host and friends all bore Turkish names, they stated to me that they were Christians at heart, but their forefathers had been forced to become Moslems by the sword. These people also long for a change, and feel that it is near, and, in any movement that might take place, their number and feelings would make them a serious element.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. GATHERAL.

No. 97.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received June 12.*)

(No. 412.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, June 2, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch from Major Trotter, reporting that the notorious Kurdish Chief Ali Khan has surrendered himself to the Persian authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 97.

Major Trotter, R.E., to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 27.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, June 1, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to report that I have lately received a letter from Van, bearing date the 9th May, in which it is stated that the notorious Kurdish Chieftan Ali Khan, the head of the Shekak tribe, who had, it appears, been lately threatening fresh disturbances on the Perso-Turkish frontier, was recently hemmed in by a combined Turco-Persian force. He sent to the Russian Vice-Consul asking for permission to cross, with his people, into Russian territory, but leave having been refused, he surrendered himself at discretion to the Persian troops. He has, I understand, been pardoned by His Majesty the Shah, and has received permission to dwell in Azerbijan, but at a distance from the frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

No. 98.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received June 12.)

(No. 417.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, June 4, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from the Acting British Vice-Consul at Angora speaking in high terms of the energy which has been displayed by the Acting Governor-General of the vilayet in the destruction of locusts.

Mr. Gatheral also reports that there seems this year every prospect of a bountiful harvest.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 98.

Acting Vice-Consul Gatheral to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 141.)
My Lord, *Angora, May 27, 1882.*

I BEG to inform your Excellency that on the 21st instant I returned to Angora from a tour of eighteen days, passing through the districts of Kurshehr and Yuzgat [*sic*] have employed a most praiseworthy activity in putting down the locust plague. During the early part of my tour in the vicinity of Angora I saw three different swarms of locusts, which were being destroyed by the peasants. From Kurshehr and onwards to Angora, by Yuzgat and Sungurlu, I saw no locusts, but many evidences of their destruction, in the shape of pits and ditches in which the insects had been buried.

At the present moment the Vilayet of Angora may be said to be free from locusts, with the single exception of the district of Tchorum, where the insects have appeared in very large numbers, but are being diligently battled with.

His Excellency Hassan Pasha deserves great credit for the energy he has displayed during the winter in collecting the locusts eggs, and in extirpating the locusts when hatched, as also in supplying this city and its surrounding districts with grain. This energy is all the more to be appreciated because of its rarity amongst Turkish Government officials.

The only painful feature in this matter was the forced labour of the peasantry, which caused very severe hardships to the poor villagers, who, at the present time, finding it hard to procure daily bread for their families, were forced to travel one or two days from their villages to the scene of their labour, worked five days, and then returned home; they had to provide themselves with the bread necessary for their support on starting.

A much larger area of land has been sown this year; the rains have been copious, and the condition of the crops is very magnificent. Already in some districts through which I passed the barley is in the ear, and there is every prospect of a very bountiful harvest. Grain in the Angora market has fallen from 22 piastres to 14 piastres, and, as there are ample stores of old grain in the Government deposits, prices are likely still further to fall, so that the general condition of the province may be said to be so far very satisfactory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE GATHERAL.

No. 99.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received June 19.)

(No 433. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, June 10, 1882.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 94, Confidential, of the 11th February, on the subject of a reported national movement among the Armenians in the neighbourhood of Erzeroum, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a further despatch addressed by Major Everett to Major Trotter with reference to this matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 99.

Major Everett to Major Trotter.

(No. 10. Confidential.)
Sir, *Erzeroum, May 22, 1882.*

I BEG to inform you that certain documents, facsimiles of which were forwarded to Her Majesty's Ambassador in my despatches of the 3rd and 28th January, are in circulation in the district of Terjan. On the other hand, I can find no traces of them either in the Passin or in the district of Chanous.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

No. 100.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received June 19.)

(No. 437.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, June 12, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a despatch which I have received from Lieutenant Bennet announcing his arrival at Marash, and indicating his subsequent movements during the summer.

I have, &c.
(For the Earl of Dufferin),
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 100.

Lieutenant Bennet to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 11.)
My Lord, *Marash, May 21, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I left Adana on the 8th May, and arrived here on the 18th.

I am leaving to-morrow for a long time in the Taurus and Anti-Taurus, and expect to reach Kaisarieh about the middle of July. I am quite unable to indicate my movements with any precision, but I shall probably go west with Lieutenant Chermside as far as Boyanti Khan or Nigdeh, and then double back and explore some parts of the Taurus which are unknown as far east as Malatia or Derendeh, and then make my way to Kaisarieh through the Anti-Taurus. My address will, therefore, be Kaisarieh.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FERDINAND BENNET.

No. 101.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received July 10.)

(No. 529. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, July 2, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a further despatch which Major Everett has addressed to Major Trotter on the subject of the Armenian national movement.

The instructions alluded to by Major Everett are those reported to your Lordship in my despatch No. 94, Confidential, of the 11th February, by which I requested him to warn Armenians against entering upon ill-considered undertakings.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 101.

Major Everett to Major Trotter.

(No. 13. Confidential.)

Mamakhatun, Terjan, June 5, 1882.

Sir,

ON the day I left Erzeroum I received some further information with reference to the Armenian national movement.

My informant may be thoroughly relied on so far as details of the movement are concerned, and he should also be very well informed as to the action of Russia; but, until there is some proof forthcoming, I think it would be well to receive with caution his statements regarding that country.

Briefly, he tells me that the measures which have been taken hitherto are merely preparatory, and are intended more especially to awaken the people and raise among them a feeling of patriotism. At present, no active steps whatever are being taken, nor is there any intention of taking them.

The movement stretches to the south as far as Mush and Van, the latter place being one of the principal centres, and to the westward as far as Erzeroum.

On my stating that I knew it existed in Terjan, he allowed that it was correct. The papers, copies of which were forwarded in my despatches Nos. 1 and 3 to Her Majesty's Ambassador, are no longer in circulation.

My informant then stated that the movement emanates from Russian Armenia, and that it is secretly encouraged by Russia; that at this moment the idea that if the people would be delivered from oppression they must look to Russia alone for aid is being actively spread among the Armenians, and that Major Kamsaragan, the Russian Vice-Consul at Van, is a principal agent.

My informant also assures me that Colonel Dennet, the Russian Consul-General at Erzeroum, had over and over again pointed out to him the absurdity of the Armenians relying on England or on any other Power, excepting Russia, for assistance. Also, that Colonel Dennet had been questioning him very closely as to the numbers and feeling of the nation, and had also consulted with him as to the best places westward for the establishment of Russian Vice-Consulates.

During my sojourn for the last ten days in Terjan, I have learnt from eye-witnesses that this last winter ten Russian Armenians were in this district writing down the numbers of the people, and assuring them that they should be saved after a year's time. I have been also informed, again from eye-witnesses, that a Russian officer passed through Kozitchan last autumn, *en route* for Karput and Diarbekir.

According to the instructions I have received from Her Majesty's Ambassador, I have lost no opportunity of impressing on the people the folly of embarking in an enterprise of so dangerous a nature.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

No. 102.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received July 10.)

(No. 531.)

Constantinople, July 2, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch I have received from Major Trotter, in which he incloses a copy of a letter from Van describing the deplorable condition of the neighbouring country.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 102.

Major Trotter, R.E., to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 30.)

Constantinople, June 27, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to submit, for your Lordship's information, copy of a letter I have received from Mr. B——, an Armenian resident in Van, who is in a position to be well informed as to what is going on in the country.

The statements he makes are, I believe, fairly reliable, and I venture to request your Lordship's special attention to the last paragraph in Mr. B——'s letter.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 102.

Letter addressed to Major Trotter by an Armenian Resident in Van.

Sir,

Van, June 13, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to call your high attention to the miserable and pitiful condition of the peasantry of this vilayet, which, being the remotest part of the Empire, is quite in a neglected state. There is no security at all in the country either for property or for life and honour, and the inhabitants are therefore driven to desperation. Scarcely the winter was over and the spring began, the Kurdish and Turkish marauders also recommenced their violence and atrocities. Robbery, murder, and all sorts of horrible outrages are now daily and all over the country being committed by Moslem malefactors. I shall venture to state a few instances of such crimes as have recently occurred in this part of the country.

On the 7th instant a band of Kurdish rascals made their appearance in the Armenian village of Kheg, which lies in the Valley of Hajotz Tzor, only six hours far from the town, where they stay some time, and afterwards walk down the hill, seeing there a few women and girls of the village in question, who were at work upon gathering wild vegetables. Now the Kurdish rascals (about twelve persons in number) put them in fright by pursuing them on a sudden; the poor creatures try to escape from their hands, but they do not succeed in their efforts, and, being surrounded by the Kurds, surrender. The rascals drive them altogether down into a valley, and begin to defile them without distinction of age.

The Kurdish Nobedar and another Armenian warder hearing the cries and lamentations of the poor women hasten to the spot, but the Armenian they wound severely by a shot, and binding the Nobedar to a tree continue their atrocities unmolested, and stripping their victims of everything they go their way. The poor creatures in question are nineteen in number, three of them women, and the remainder girls aged from 8 to 16 years.

This atrocious crime was repeatedly committed by Kurds in the village of Hindistan and somewhere else in the neighbourhood of our town, but I have not as yet heard that the local authorities had taken any steps to arrest and punish the culprits.

Robbery is likewise prevailing all over the country, and I am sorry to state that even the roads in the immediate neighbourhood of the town are not safe. Merchants and travellers are continually being robbed and murdered by Kurds, who are armed with Martini-Henry rifles. A Russian merchant was plundered the other day on his way to Bashkala by a band of robbers whose chief is Ismail, the son of Maklisood Agha, the Mudir of Khoshab; but this malefactor is walking in our town without being molested by the local authorities because he is a near relation to Temour Oghlou Galib Pasha, the President of the Criminal Court of Van.

The Persian Kurds are also laying waste the Ottoman territories near the frontier. A telegram was received here last week from the Governor-General of the new Vilayet of Hekkiari, announcing appearance of a large band of mounted Kurdish marauders, who, crossing the frontier near Khanig, the chief place of the Ottoman military cordon, had proceeded, divided in four arms, to Khoshab, Norduz, Alpag, and Shadakh, and a few days ago information reached here that a party of them had attacked and plundered the village of Drbaz Agha, a powerful and rich Kurdish chieftain residing in Norduz. An engagement, it is stated, took place between the robbers and the villagers, and Drbaz Agha was shot dead by the marauders. The whole population of Norduz, both Christians and Moslems, are much excited because of this event, as Drbaz Agha's presence only was protecting their lives, honour, and property against the continual attacks of the surrounding Kurdish tribes. I have been informed also that Drbaz Agha's tribe are preparing to take revenge on their enemies.

In consequence of these Kurdish depredations, communication has almost ceased between the two vilayets, as nobody can travel without being strongly escorted; business is therefore at a stand, and the Armenians are again thinking that all efforts are in vain which are being made on behalf of them by the European Powers, and that they must either altogether become Muhammedans, or accept the Russian Church in order to be

protected by the Russian Government, or make a complete exodus from this country; but they have as yet not come to a resolution.

No. 103.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received July 10.)

(No. 541.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, July 3, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch, as marked in the margin, from Sir C. Wilson, inclosing the following Reports by Lieutenant Chermside, viz.: "Notes on a Voyage and Travels in Kurdistan," with a Map; "Memorandum on the Kurds;" "Notes on the Chaldæans;" "Notes on some of the Populations near Mosul, and between it and Bagdad."

I would beg to call your Lordship's attention to the high terms in which Sir C. Wilson expresses himself with regard to the tact and ability displayed by Lieutenant Chermside during his journey.

I have sent these Reports in original to your Lordship on account of the delay which would occur if duplicates were made, but I shall be obliged if you will forward copies of them, when printed, for preservation in the archives of this Embassy.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 103.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 21.)

My Lord, *Konieh, June 17, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the under-mentioned Reports which I have received from Lieutenant Chermside, C.M.G., Royal Engineers, viz.:—

"Notes on a Voyage and Travels in Kurdistan," with a Map.
"Memorandum on the Kurds."
"Notes on the Chaldæans."
"Notes on some of the Populations near Mosul, and between it and Bagdad."

The Reports supply much information that is new, and I venture to think that your Lordship will find them to contain many interesting details respecting the state of the country visited. I would specially draw attention to the passages in which Lieutenant Chermside describes the desolation, misery, and depopulation which follow the establishment of Turkish rule, with its accompaniment of needy, incompetent officials, in those districts which have been, until recent years, partially or wholly independent.

The estimate which Lieutenant Chermside forms of the ease with which any disturbances in Kurdistan might be suppressed by the Turkish troops already in the country, if there were any real desire on the part of the Porte and the officers in command to put an end to them, agrees with all that I have heard from other sources.

I would beg to take this opportunity of bringing prominently to your Excellency's notice the tact and ability which Lieutenant Chermside has displayed during his recent journey. Lieutenant Chermside's route lay through some districts where there was little public security, and, sometimes, amongst tribes rarely visited by Europeans; yet no difficulty arose, and he appears to have succeeded in gaining the good-will of all sects and classes of the population.

As considerable delay would ensue if the reports were detained until duplicate copies were made, I have forwarded them, in original, for transmission, through your Lordship, to the Foreign Office.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 103.

Lieutenant Chermside, R.E., to Colonel Sir C. Wilson.

Sir, *Diarbekir, April 30, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to submit to you the following general remarks on the country visited by me in accordance with your orders in the winter of 1881-82.

Landing at Mersin I crossed the Cilician Plains, and went thence through the gorge at the north of the Amanus range or Giaour Dagh to Marash. I could note no perceptible improvement in this district as the result of the two years that have elapsed since I visited and reported on it, except that the presence of Abédine Pasha as Vali of Adana has brought a somewhat greater measure of security. Excepting the by no means excessive amount of cultivation between Mersin and Adana and around the latter, the magnificent extent of plain remains almost a wilderness. Akif Pasha, it may be remembered, was dispatched on a mission of settling the various nomad tribes or "Yuruks" in these plains. These people cannot endure the pestilential climate of summer in these regions; the water supply, except in the immediate vicinity of the rivers, is scanty, and in summer hot and unwholesome. The only feasible arrangement would seem to be to establish the people in villages, where they should remain till their crops are harvested, and then allow them to go to the mountains, but under surveillance and only to prescribed districts, as at present they harass the regions they pass through, and engage in cattle-lifting near their summer quarters. In one case, that of the Seyd Gechidlu, a Turkman tribe, whose head-quarters are a village midway between Adana and Sis, this is done, and a Mudir or Sub-Governor resides with the tribe summer and winter. In other places, owing to the unhealthiness of the Settlements, as at Osmanieh, Sis, Kars, Payas, &c., the Government removes to the mountains for three months. According to report, Akif Pasha acted with severity and considerably enriched himself, but no other tangible result attended his mission. To colonize this valuable district would be a difficult and costly matter; large towns such as Adana and Tarsus on the rivers and surrounded by gardens maintain a permanent population, although unhealthy and deserted by the wealthier classes in summer, but in the regions where population and cultivation are scanty, the Settlements have not been a success. Eighteen years ago, as the result of Dervish Pasha's campaign in the insurgent districts of the Ginour Dagh, the inhabitants were forced to settle in the plains on both sides of that range, and the small towns of Kars-Bazar, Osmanieh, Islahia, and Hassa were established. These are all miserable, half-ruined places, as is Sis; the permanent population is very small; as centres they have not attracted a settled population, and have failed, while for the last six years nomadic habits have been resumed, and except in the Hamuk Ovasi, or Plain of Antioch, almost all the inhabitants have destroyed their villages, and have partially or totally abandoned cultivation. The attempt to settle the nomads which the Porte is making all over Asia Minor, from the west coast right away to Rowanduz on the Persian frontier, does not seem being carried out, in the region now spoken of, as seriously or with the same prospect of success as it promised to be when initiated under Midhat Pasha in the Aidin district. Looking to the considerable permanent population and cultivation to be found in the hot plains and marshes between Bagdad and Basrah, there is no doubt some natives could live in the Cilician Plains, only, however, one of the many localities now practically a wilderness.

The same clan raiding and feuds were going on as of old, and troops were out near Islahia. The method adopted of letting matters go on, and then vindicating the authority of the Government by a military raid, much as the hill tribes on the Indian frontiers are treated, is not an economical one, as the marauders, although rendered powerless for a time, being tax-paying subjects, considerable detriment to the revenue accrues. Clan feuds.

From Marash I passed along the Taurus to the district of Adiaman or Husni Mansur, a thinly-peopled tract. Near the lakes on the Ak Su, I found several remnants of communities of Circassian refugees from Roumelia, who, after many wanderings and vicissitudes, have found a home in a desolated scrub-covered region of fair climate and water, resembling the country between Silivri, Tchorlu, and Lule Bergas in Roumelia. Unfortunately, these people have very few oxen or implements and little seed, and they can only attain a relative prosperity by a very slow process. The neighbouring districts are Kurdish, and as yet there are few complaints against the new comers. Circassian refugees.

Husni Mansur, in the plains to the south of the Taurus, is contiguous to the Agja Dagh and Kiachta districts of the central Taurus, the tribes of which have ever been very lawless, and a source of much trouble and little profit to the Government, since

their reduction by Hafiz Pasha, just previous to the battle of Nisib, over forty years ago. The barracks and military posts (seventeen), which were to have been erected in Kurdistan and on the frontiers of Arabistan, and of which these districts comprised the westernmost posts, have not been made. Skender Bey, a Hungarian officer, who was inspecting the sites at the time of the great paper reforms two years ago, when I gave details of the scheme, is since dead. The scheme, which was, as pointed out, most ambitious and costly, though very complete on paper, is in complete abeyance, or has been abandoned.

The mountain district, inclosed by the great bend of the Euphrates, contains numerous well watered and fertile valleys, and is one, apart from its mineral wealth, capable of considerable development. It is, however, rapidly deteriorating. The inhabitants are Kurdish, sedentary, and nomad, with the exception of an Armenian village or two in the passes to Malatia. These Kurds are very turbulent, and fight with and plunder each other; in the matter of taxes, and even to a great degree the conscription, they submit to the Government more thoroughly than the districts to the east. The recruits taken usually desert, however, if possible.

Raiding on an unusual scale had been going on, and troops from Diarbekir were out in Kindita, and the Vali was there just previous to my passage near it.

I met a large body of a semi-nomad tribe, who, having abandoned their district, were in search of an asylum. Old men, women, and children all were moving, in consequence of the severe repressive measures.

The state of the plains below does not call for particular remark the universal cry all over Asia Minor; of oppressive taxation, insecurity, and want of justice, and that, as regards the people's rights, there is no Government, was prevalent.

I may add that not only here, but everywhere, subsequently, there were loud complaints against the judicial power, now that it is separated from the executive, against the new regulations themselves, and the rapacity and shamelessness of those who administer them.

Urfa.

At Urfa things were very cheap, and this great grain-producing district seems to have quite recovered, except in live-stock, from the effects of the famine. Want of communications and the state of the western markets prevents its abundance finding an outlet.

The Governor, Roumi Effendi, has at Urfa, as where I have met him previously, a very good reputation; he is much occupied with a project for bringing water from the Euphrates, below Gergor, to the plains of Urfa and Harran, and so on towards Rakka. He hopes to effect this with local resources. It would be of vast benefit to the country, as for want of water the Harran district has nearly relapsed into desert, the small stream formerly supplying the large walled town of Harran, now a ruin, being absorbed by rich proprietors for irrigation in the plain to the north of that historical and once populous city. Were a railroad, or even a working road, ever made, the importance of the work would be much enhanced. My conclusion, however, from the rough barometrical and boiling-water sections I have twice made from the Euphrates to Urfa, with very similar results, is that it is not feasible between the points named, and to tap the river higher up would be very costly. In any case, it will probably share the usual fate of Turkish projects.

Urfa to Mardin.

From Urfa I followed a southerly route to Mardin. The country at the foot of the hills, and for some way to the south, was, till within a few years, considerably cultivated; since the irruption of practically independent Bedouins into Northern Mesopotamia their raids, seconded by those of the Milli and Kiki Kurds and Turkmans from the hills on the north, have reduced it to desert, and till within a day of Mardin there is hardly a hamlet along the route.

I came across some very extensive sites of ruined cities, large quarries, and some interesting antiquities, apparently, from the cuneiform inscriptions and form of the sculptures, Assyrian, and, I believe, unknown to travellers.

Ras-ul-Ain.

At Ras-ul-Ain, the Circassian Settlement near the sources of the Mesopotamian Khabur River, an isolated little town in the uncultivated plain, I found the colony of Tchetchens much reduced by the effects of an unsuitable climate—the water, for the springs of the Khabur, which, gushing from the rocks in numerous fountains, form at once a swift, clear river, only just fordable a mile from its sources, are warm—and by their feuds with the Arabs. Their numbers, once over 2,000 families, are now about 200 families.

As Mardin is approached, a few villages on the plain below are met with. Here the greatest lawlessness was prevalent, oxen and sheep being openly raided. I saw one herd, containing, I was subsequently assured, 3,000 of the latter, being driven off by

their captors. In some cases, so little hope of redress is there, the victims do not even take the trouble to inform the Government.

Mardin.

At Mardin, Said Pasha, the Mutessarif, has a good reputation, and, no doubt, good intentions and principles; there is, however, every reason to consider the universal postulate, that there is no Government beyond the gates of the city, no exaggeration as regards protection, though in tax-gathering it is a different matter.

The Courts and judicial functionaries, especially the Christian ones, have a very bad reputation; the Governor complains that as fast as he catches malefactors they release them, for a consideration of course. I have no hesitation in saying that in all respects, except scarcity of provisions, things both here and Diarbekir are appreciably worse than when I visited both two years ago. Although things are cheaper, stagnation of trade and other causes have produced an excessive poverty, and the sufferings, especially of the townspeople, in the struggle for existence, are very great.

Jebel Tur.

From Mardin I passed across the hilly limestone country, sparsely covered with gall-bearing oak, called the Tur Abdin, Mash Dagh (Mons Masius), or Jebel Tur to a point on the Tigris just above its junction with the Bohtan; this district has recovered in a great measure the effects of the famine, and Hajo, the robber chief, has lost his head since I was there. The roads on this account are safer, but local murders and outrages are said to be more rife and more unheeded than previously.

This interesting district contains a very mixed population; the bulk is Moslem, the majority Kurds, divided into sedentary tribes inhabiting various districts; the other Moslem tribes are of Arab or Arab-Kurdish descent, some of the former pure Arabs from Mecca; thus there are Kurd and Arab speaking Moslems; besides these, there are numerous Christian villages of the Jacobite sect: in some of these the language is Arabic, in others Kurdish, and in a considerable number Turain, a dialect of Syriac peculiar to these mountains, and differing considerably from that used by the Chaldæans. There are, besides, several villages of Asdai or Yezids, language, Kurdish. The Government method of treating a whole tribe as rebels on account of some black sheep, and its wholesale retaliation in sacking and destroying villages, together with the taxes and their mode of assessment and collection, have left their marks here, and the district is not what it was in number or size of villages.

The Bohtan.

Crossing the Bohtan at its junction with the Tigris, I entered the Bohtan Mountains at their extreme south-west; these in all their lower parts are well wooded, compared to most of Kurdistan, principally with gall-bearing and other species of oak and various shrubs. The gall oaks are preserved, and are here the finest I have seen. The mountains are well watered and abound in fertile valleys, dotted with the ruined white castelets and strongholds of the feudal Begs, and produce splendid poplars, walnut, and other fruit trees in profusion, but the desolation that has been wrought by the Government in this district only so recently subdued is complete and shocking. There are far more deserted villages than inhabited ones, the latter reduced in size, with inhabitants for the most part abjectly poor and squalid. The mosques and medressehs of former Mirs, Sheikhs, and Begs are all in ruins. The Rayahs, both Kurdish and Christian, have suffered terribly, the nomads alone, of whom, however, as they were mostly gone to the plains, I saw but little till later in their winter quarters, seem more or less as they were before.

The Colony of Chaldæan (Nestorian) villages in the Caza of Deyr Gul, the stronghold of the notorious Yakeel Beder Khan, who ruled the Bohtan in the name of its hereditary Chief, Moi Saif-ed-din, has completely disappeared. Of the eleven villages and the convents not one remains, though between this and Til there is one such village.

A large majority of the settled population is Kurdish, as are all the nomads, with the exception of three Yezid tribes. The majority of the Christians are Armenians, the minority Chaldæans; these again pretty equally divided into Nestorians and Catholics.

Remains of former population.

This mountains evidently once contained a far larger Christian population, as there are many ruined churches and convents in districts long completely Kurdish, or deserted by all settled inhabitants, and from the similarity of certain of the types, I have little doubt that in more remote times still many of the present so-called Kurds were Christians.

Churches, convents, mosques, medressehs, bridges, and aqueducts, all now in ruins, testify to the former existence in comparatively recent times of a far larger and more civilized population. I may mention that the large Christian village of Deh, occupied by the insurgent son of Beder Khan's three years ago, and subsequently plundered by the Turkish troops, has never received its promised compensation (80,000 piastres). It is reduced at least one-third in size. The weaving industry of shawls, cloth, &c., has much declined in the mountains.

Moks or Musci.

After examining all the Northern Bohtan up to the bare, snowy, uninhabited plateau of the Eastern Harnkol, I crossed into Musci, or the Moks district, where there are numerous Armenians, and from thence to a singularly beautiful district called Berwari, lying between Shattak and Jezireh. It is watered by the first large southern arm of the Bohtan, the main stream of which is here called the Shattak, and by confluents of the Hazel River, which falls into the Khabur. After crossing a lofty, rugged, and treeless mountain region, this basin, walled in by towering, snowy mountains, is reached. Oak on the slopes and fruit-trees below grow in profusion, and the thyme and numerous wild flowers afford excellent bee pasture. (Price of honey, 2*s.* 8*d.* for a stone of 14 lbs.) The permanent inhabitants are very few in the actual basin—some six or eight hamlets, three of which are Chaldæan. These wretched people are in a pitiable condition. The southern part is visited by numerous tribes of nomads; when I was there it was deserted, except by a few ibex hunters, who abandoned their cave quarters soon after.

Bohtan Berwari.

Kawalis.

From thence I crossed to Kawalis, a mountain district lying south of Shattak, and watered by another arm of the Bohtan. It comprises a very high, almost treeless, upland, containing several hamlets of Kurds—wild and lawless by repute, but miserable, poor, and squalid enough. I went thence to Shattak, a district one to two days' journey from Van, containing a considerable population, a large proportion of which, if not the majority, is Armenian. The Christians here speak Armenian, as in Musci; to the west, the Armenians only Kurdish; the Chaldæans, Syriac and Kurdish. In the valley of the Bohtan itself are fine fruit-trees and some vineyards; on the slopes, some oak, cedar, and juniper; but the outlying parts of the district are treeless, and produce little but millet, which grain, as in Kawalis, forms the staple food of the inhabitants.

Shattak.

Nurduz.

From Shattak I passed to Nurduz, a district of Hakkiari, which, I fancy, must be the highest inhabited district in Turkey in Asia. It lies at the head-waters of the Bohtan, close to the watersheds between that river and the Lab and Khabur. The steep scaurs, crags, and precipitous ravines of the Bohtan here change to a succession of bare, grassy, upland valleys, and hills rather than mountains. The dwellings are subterranean, and the cold in winter excessive. It is above the line of trees. The inhabitants are Kurds, Armenians, and Chaldæans, and, in spite of the presence of troops in Shattak and Hakkiari, the greatest lawlessness prevails.

Farashin.

A day to the south, across the watershed, lies the district of Farashin, at the head-waters of the Khabur, containing one or two Christian hamlets. Below this the river runs in a deep-cut gorge, which completely isolates the district.

Farashin, Nurduz, Kawalis, and part of Shattak afford plenty of grass, and are visited by nomad Kurds in the summer.

Lewen.

After visiting Lewen, a similar district of Hakkiari, where the Chaldæan villages have suffered terribly at the hands of the nomads, I crossed to the Zab valley, and passed through the district of Shirwiran into those of Julamerk, Guveyr, and Diza. Near the former trees recommence in the valleys, but, except for the deep-cleft gullies leading to the Zab, the districts resemble in their main features Nurduz, Lewen, and Kawalis. They lie on the north and west of the intricate part of the Hakkiari, with its lofty Alps and precipitous gorges.

Shirwiran. Julamerk. Guveyr. Diza.

These districts are now completely under Turkish authority, and the power of the Kurds is broken. There are troops at Julamerk and Guveyr, and a telegraph to both places from Bash-kalah, as well as a post to the former; but, while there is no open rebellion, increased activity of tax-gathering on the one side, and unchecked raiding on the other, have left the people more miserable than they were before.

Chaldæan tribal districts.

I next visited the more rugged and difficult districts of Thaal, Walto, Tiyar, and Tkhuba, inhabited principally by tribal Chaldæans, who cultivate small spots on the few available slopes of the precipitous valleys of the Zab and its confluents. These people inhabit the secluded recesses of the Kurdistan Alps, and enjoy a sort of local autonomy. They seem to have recovered a great deal from the massacres of Beder Khan in 1842-43. They nominally pay a tribute to the Porte, but for the past three years most of them have paid nothing. Rice, millet, and tobacco are produced in abundance, and grapes, walnuts, and other fruits. In some places I found excellent potatoes. A bad time is coming for these people. Julamerk, it is said, is to be the head-quarters of a new vilayet (Hakkiari), and, doubtless, the paternal Government will soon introduce its civilization. This simply means the reduction of a fairly prosperous, though poor, mountain district to the lamentable state of those to the west which I have just described. For example, a similar autonomous caza in the Taurus, containing under 3,000 families, paid not many years since an annual tribute of 16,000 piastres, and subsequently 8,000 piastres additional, for the expenses of the officials appointed to

collect it; eighteen years ago, when the Government organized it on the same footing as other communities, the annual taxation, as assessed, was changed to about 500,000 piastres, and the region was reduced to the greatest poverty.

The mountainous regions of Kurdistan cannot afford to pay the normal taxes of western Anatolia with their accompanying exactions, especially when the destruction of their *quasi*-autonomy leaves them a prey to the anarchy that the feeble Administration introduced invariably begets.

Berwari.

Beyond the tribal Christian districts I visited some inhabited almost exclusively by tribal Kurds, and then the beautiful districts of Upper and Lower Berwari (oak), near Ameydieh, where the population is of fairly even proportions of Kurds and Chaldæans, the latter of both faiths.

The change for the worse in this region, more favoured by nature as it is from the districts above, is most marked.

Khabur Valley.

The Valley of the Khabur I found to be a magnificent tract, very fairly wooded in its lower parts; above it is less populated than the Zab Valley; the Chaldæan mountaineers are here mostly Catholics. The numerous small Kurdish tribes are at feud with one another; the normal lawlessness prevails, and it is very hard to get guides, as neither Moslem nor Christian dare go far from their village. Some of the Christians here are still serfs and pay feudal taxes, but their lords have no longer the power to do anything but ill-treat them.

Geliyigkwoyan or Goyyan.

Between the Khabur and Hazel Rivers lies a very lofty mountain mass, and its valleys contain besides Christians some of the wildest Kurdish tribes I met. One remarkable district, a sort of *entonnoir* reached by a path up the bed of a branch of the Hazel which runs in a deep precipitous cleft, in one place only a few yards across, is called Geliyigkwoyan. Its entrance has been forced once or more by Turkish troops, and the villages (seven) given to sack; the inhabitants have a shocking reputation, and are the terror of Bohtan and Hakkiari alike; it is easily conceivable what Government authority amounts to when I say that it is under Diarbekir! From what the inhabitants said as to the tax collecting that had been done, and from other details of their treatment, I couldn't help concluding, impossible as I allow it to be to treat the wilder Kurds according to European usage, that the Government was much to blame for the proceedings of the tribe.

Lower Bohtan.

The Lower Bohtan which I subsequently visited is in a shocking state of neglect, disorder, and depopulation. Travelling for a whole day through its principal valley, sheltered and of fertile soil, and well watered and wooded, I only met one human being, and heard of a small hamlet which I did not see; loose jungle has succeeded to former cultivation, through which large herds of wild swine were wandering carelessly in the daytime.

Turning to the east I passed through the Zacho district, which has suffered tremendously from the famine, and from ultra-feebleness and misgovernment, it being an outlying district of distant Mosul. Apart from the Chaldæan villages in the plain of the Khabur, which, much as they suffer from the mountain raiders and the passage of the nomads, are its most prosperous feature, it is perhaps more advanced in depopulation than any other district I saw. Most of its splendid plain is waste, and its mountain districts are no better. From one point I could see the sites of fourteen recently abandoned villages, and an official told me that the latter, which a few years ago numbered 360, were now under 200.

Badinan.

In Dohuk, the next district visited, the mountains are lower, and though well wooded and watered valleys are found, the hills to the south are almost bare. I here met the Head Priest and the Civil Chief of the Yezidees. These people enjoy some of the very relative prosperity of the Christians of the plains. Oppressed and looked down upon as they are by the Turks, being a tolerably compact population, they do not suffer as the Kurds and Christians of the mountains do. In such relatively minor matters as justice and tax gathering they share the common lot, but their lives and the balance of their property are fairly secure.

Herki nomads.

Passing through the mountains south of Ameydieh I came across the winter head-quarters of the famous nomad Herki Kurds. Their ex-Chieftain was in prison, as he did not fall in with the Government views as to housing his people; the new one was experimenting in sedentary life in a Christian village, of which he had taken possession (Shermin), to the great concern of its few remaining proprietors.

Akra.

After coming to the southern slope of the mountains to visit Akra, where I found the Government (Kaïmakamlik) administered by an opium-consuming young gentleman, whose faculties when not obfuscated by his favourite drug do not seem to enable him to understand much Turkish, I visited the mountain valleys to the north and passed through

Zibar, Shirwan, Baradost.

the districts Zibar, Shirwan, Baradost, and Huidiyan, but turned off short of Nelori, Sheikh Obeydullah's residence. The famine here had been very severe, and this and the Government have left few inhabitants.

The valleys seem fertile, are very beautiful, and have abundant wood and water; there are a few Jews and a few Christians, and there is one fairly flourishing part of Zibar, as being very inaccessible it has not yet been civilized. The scantiness of the population is forcibly testified to by the gall crop, nowhere completely gathered, here appearing almost untouched.

This district, once under the hereditary Begs and Pashas of Rowanduz, was principally inhabited by warlike tribes of Kurds, and, judging from ruined mills, terraces, rice-beds, &c., and numerous fortalices, was once relatively well off, it is a wilderness now.

Rowanduz.

From near the Persian frontier I turned south to Rowanduz, a Kurdish town at the junction of two routes from Persia, the southern of which is one of the best and most frequented caravan tracks. A day west of Rowanduz I emerged into the foot hills, at first scantily wooded, but a day further on bare; the limestone formation of the lower mountains (many of the upper are slate) here gives way to sandstone, successive great bare ridges of which continue to Kerkuk and Suleymanieh. There is a vast amount of pasture here, and I came across numerous winter camps of nomads. Near Choi-Sanjak, a town through which I found there lies another practicable route for pack animals to Persia, the country is very stony; thence it is open all the way to Bagdad. The routes Choi-Sanjak by the lesser Zab valley, and over the hills to Kerkuk or the post road, viâ Arbela, Altyn-Kopru, Kifri to Bagdad only cross two inconsiderable sandstone ranges, but to the east of these routes it is all a hilly country except from Kifri to Khanikin.

The sedentary population of the plain villages is here Turkish, of Turkman origin, and in the towns, with the exception of Saleymanieh, little more than a village, and Khanikin, although there are a few Kurds, Arabs, Jews, and Christians, the majority is Turkish, a fact of which I was unaware. On the river banks are a few sedentary Arabs and nomad Kurds, and Arabs, two tributary tribes of the Shammar, having taken advantage of the general confusion to establish themselves on the east bank of the Tigris.

South of Kifri the Jebel Hamrin hills are crossed, and below on the vast alluvial plain extending to Bagdad there is a scanty Arab-speaking population, living in mud hovels among the ruined canals and vast works of a former civilization. The amount cultivated is not nearly what it might be even now.

The district beyond Choi-Sanjak I merely visited on leave, with your sanction.

In the above brief sketch I have purposely avoided local details or the causes of ruin in separate districts for fear of repeating myself, and because the desolate state of the country is sufficiently uniform for general remarks to apply.

The whole country is in a miserable state; the trade of the towns has dwindled enormously, and the material well-being of their populations in a proportionate degree, their numbers in a lesser one. Although the desolation of the rural districts has resulted in approximate depopulation of whole districts, it is hard to see, apart from the victims of famine, where the people have gone. I can only suppose that the harder condition of life in the towns has prevented the increments becoming an element of permanent increase. I fancy, too, the nomad tribes have been recruited from the pastoral Kurds.

An oft-repeated question to a traveller is, "What will the end of this be"? I confess that it appears to me the end has come.

When a Government subdues a semi-independent district, utterly breaks up all the elements of local authority and cohesion, and substituting nothing for what it has destroyed, confines itself to the rôle of an exacting tax-gatherer, when it leaves the numberless predatory clans, where it does not actually foment their feuds, to prey on one another and the defenceless villages no longer under feudal sway, when it apathetically ignores the general insecurity, and exacts, if possible, the same annual tribute from a rapidly decaying country, the last stage seems to have been reached, and one which may continue for an indefinite period, down to the limit of absolute depopulation.

Causes of decadence.

The causes which have produced this ruin are:—

(a.) Commercial.

(a.) Commercial causes.

1. The introduction of steam navigation and the Cape of Good Hope route.

While the markets of the world have been revolutionized, Kurdistan has remained, as to distance, where it was.

2. The Suez Canal, which has further enormously reduced the through traffic.

3. The Perso-Russian trade route, which the supineness of the Turks has allowed to divert from Mosul and Mardin the remaining Asian traffic.

4. The decrease in the relative value of money, and consequent general rise of prices, which, from the enhanced price of transport to the coast (over double what it was some years since), leaves no margin of profit, at least to the producer, on the export of many raw products.

Decent communications would of course have obviated in a considerable degree the above four reasons.

5. The reduced price of wool and the enormously reduced price of and demand for gall-nuts.

Wool and gall-nuts are the main staples of Kurdish produce. The latter only command one-sixth of the former price.

(b.) Administrative reasons.

(b.) The administrative reasons which have largely contributed to the general decadence are—

1. The Tanzimat.

This measure of reform, like many that are admirable in theory, was premature (for Kurdistan). Formerly the feudal Chiefs were more or less subject to the Government, and might have been made more so. Of course their vast power was often used for oppression, and dreadful results, such as the massacres of Christians by Beder Khan Bey,* occurred, but, taken all in all, there is no doubt, from the existing remains of churches, mosques, bridges, cultivation, &c., that districts were more populous and more materially prosperous than now.

Christians were little better than serfs, but serfs of a master who protected them, while now, though the lot of those in and near towns is better than of old, that of the large unprotected population of the rural districts is much worse. The Kurdish clans, too, left without powerful leaders, have preyed upon each other more than of old, whilst the lawlessness developed in the interior of clans and districts has had perhaps a still greater effect. Their chief men, too, have become, in the hands of Government officials, interested instruments for plundering their kinsmen on a scale that was never attempted before.

2. Taxation.

Kurdistan, without communications, cannot form advantageously for itself a province of an empire with a capital as far distant as Stamboul, a European Empire, so to speak, which aspires to maintain iron-clad fleets, to arm with modern weapons, and to maintain a vast Court in European luxury, to have a network of telegraphs, and a central bureaucracy and civil service, whose members' travelling expenses and salaries are defrayed from the revenues of localities which are left in barbarism. Thus while money which has at the capital, on the west coast, and at the ports a certain equivalent value for articles of food, &c., it has in Kurdistan a far higher relative value from the cheapness of necessaries due to want of external market, yet the taxation is the same. Thus an average sheep worth near Smyrna say 80 piastres is worth in Kurdistan 15 piastres, yet both pay an annual tax of 3½ piastres, in the one case less than 5 per cent., in the other nearly 25 per cent. It is a moot question whether the inhabitants of Kurdistan, without other than local market for their produce, can afford to pay taxes, land tax, sheep tax, earnings tax, letting property tax, military service tax, &c., on the same scale as districts more favoured by their local position; but there can be no doubt that, as the taxation stands, taking into account the abuses in assessment and collection, to say nothing of the general insecurity of life and property, that they cannot. The arrears into which they are allowed to fall, or are inevitably thrown by bad seasons, become a most serious question, as in a district once heavily in arrears industry and enterprise are stifled, and there is an ever ready weapon of oppression in the hands of the ring who in general practically rule all districts. Orders exist in parts, if not all, of Kurdistan, to claim arrears only from 1288 (over nine years), but these are in many cases sufficient to leave the peasant hopelessly involved. Personal taxation, instead of community taxation, has been introduced in all but the more remote districts; in one I recently traversed it was introduced by regulation three years ago, but for the two succeeding years taxes were taken on the old system, the inhabitants have now to pay it on the new for those two years as well. In answering their complaint the Government condoled with them, but said the same had occurred in so many districts that the remission asked for could not be granted.

3. The Conscription.

While it has been found impracticable to apply this effectually in the mountain

* This very Beder Khan was lord of a district containing, besides many Kurds, numerous Christian villages. Its absolute depopulation, consequent to the advent of Turkish authority, I have noted above.

districts, as the men even if taken desert from immense distances, the burden has fallen all the more heavily on the districts near the seats of government. Even in the mountains men who have been drawn, but left in their homes, do not marry and settle down. Of the large batches which are occasionally sent to Yemen, Hedjaz, &c., few ever return.

5. The well-known general corruption and administrative abuses.

6. Insecurity of life and property.

The want of enterprise due to scant prospect of return and the system of plundering individuals who have material evidences of wealth are the result of these.

Land is very cheap; want of security, labour, and market, however, causes most available capital to be invested in usury. In and near the towns the general indebtedness is a marked feature. The risks being great, interest is high. While one debtor, whose eventually proves a bad debt, being cramped by his obligation, does not thrive, another, who pays, is completely damned by the high interest. Bad debts are so many, that I am assured it is rare for the usurers to amass large fortunes.

The disadvantages of the separation of all judiciary matters from the control of the Executive are naturally most accentuated in Kurdistan, and justice is more than ever a byword. In spite of abundant crops, the poverty and material hardships of the town populations have perceptibly increased since my last visit (1879-80).

The country seems literally dying, and it is a damning accusation against Turkish administration that the one or two semi-independent communities, Christian and Kurdish, that I came across, ignorant and uneducated as they are, should form such a striking contrast in relative condition to the subjects of the Sultan in civilized districts.

I have written some separate notes on such details as I have gathered as to the Kurdish movement, but I may mention here that the power of the Kurds is completely broken, and that the Government can and does send troops and officials, even in small numbers, where it likes in the mountains, and has for long been able to do so. In the more difficult districts this is only done in cases of rebellion, and at rare intervals for tax collecting; simply rare, as far as I could learn, because the expense entailed does not make it worth while unless the villages be sacked and the herds driven off, in which case, for some time to come, any fresh expedition would be evidently unremunerative.

Besides those mentioned above, in five separate localities small expeditions were being conducted. They were all unconnected local disturbances.

I do not myself believe that Turkey is capable of revivifying this country into even a moderate state of prosperity, still less that she is likely to do it of her own act.

Two things may be accepted as postulates if any material advance is to be made:—

1. Communication with the coast.

I do not see how a line of railway to pass from Aleppo, near Arfa and Mardin, to Mosul and Bagdad could possibly pay.

The Bagdad district, looking at its former wealth and population, is, in spite of the small local traffic created by the Bagdad-Basrah steam navigation, if possible, relatively more advanced in decay than Kurdistan.

Some such line, however, is the only chance for the towns which no longer have a *raison d'être*, and which, as the buying and producing power of the rural districts diminishes, will sink yet further, shrunk and ruined as many now are.

2. Security.

It is, of course, too late to put the Begs back again, and a highly numerous and efficient gendarmerie is beyond the reach of Turkish finance, if not of Turkish organization.

A system similar in principle to the old, in rendering the districts locally responsible, might be attempted with the local Councils and police spoken of in Abédine Pasha's note. The tribal divisions offer certain facilities.

If the people elect their commune rulers they will elect their own oppressors, and if they are Government nominees the result will be the same at present. The only hope would seem to be the rather Utopian one of getting good subordinate Government officials to control the local ones.

The oft-repeated proposal of picked Governors-General, with power to choose their subordinates, a critical experiment for Turks, and a measure of the decentralization so hateful to Stamboul, would seem the only means, short of foreign aid, likely to insure this.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

OUTLINE MAP OF
CENTRAL & SOUTHERN KURDISTAN.
Herbert Chermside Lt Pr
Dwarkah April 30th 1882

Inclosure 3 in No. 103.

Outline Map to accompany Lieutenant Chermside's Report on his Journey in Kurdistan.

Inclosure 4 in No. 103.

Memorandum on the Kurds, by Lieutenant Chermside, R.E.

IN this Memorandum I propose to confine myself to personal experiences of Kurds, and to give a list of such tribes as I have come across to the east of the Euphrates only, and to the south of the Taurus: those met elsewhere have been written of in former despatches, and as Her Majesty's Consul-General for Bagdad and Consul for Kurdistan have probably lists of the tribes, it would seem more useful to record only what I can guarantee.

The Kurds are pre-eminently a pastoral people, and the majority are sedentary as regards their winter quarters, but like living in tents in summer, and thus many are partially nomad, removing with their flocks after harvest, but usually moving only a few miles, and sometimes having their camp on an eminence within sight of their village. They do not change camp or wander as a rule, but go into standing camp.

Speaking generally, the Kurds are a hill people, and the large majority are divided into tribes or clans, and these again are often subdivided into septs. Tribes with over 10,000 members are rare, the average I believe to be about 3,000.

There are, however, on the northern edge of the Mesopotamian plains near Arfa, near Diabekir, and near Mosul, Kurdish villages in the plains, and many of these are not tribal, and are looked down on more or less by the tribal Kurds. When obliged to live in plains or alluvial valleys the Kurd is often no longer pastoral, or but slightly so, and a community, whether there or in the mountains, who live by tilling, are called Rayah equally with the Christians.

Besides these there are the Kochers, or nomad tribal Kurds. These people pass the summer in the highlands or "zozans" of Kurdistan, and winter south of the mountains, some going as far into the Mesopotamian desert as the Sinjar hills, but the majority keeping near the banks of the Tigris, the two Zabs, and the Diala.

In the area comprised within (1) the line Diarbekir, Sert, and thence eastward along the Bohtan to its sources, and thence due east to the Persian frontier; and (2) the frontier as far south as Khanikin, latitude 34° 21′ north, near Bagdad; (3) Khanikin west to the Tigris, and up that river to Diarbekir; the Kurds whom I met are, with one exception, all Sunni Moslems, unless the Shabbakhs and Bedjwans, two curious tribes who seem of Persian rather than Kurdish origin, prove to be Kurds. As far south as Choi-Sanjak they are Shafis, but the Jafs and some of those to the south are Haneefehs.*

Characteristics.

I take it the Kurds were a more religious people in the days of the Begs, as the feudal lords were called, than they are now. These feudal Chiefs built mosques, and presumably kept them up for the inhabitants as well as themselves. Now, however, except in the small towns, mosques are very rare, and even where there are large villages there is a great contrast between Kurdistan and Anatolia in this respect. Although it varies according to districts, it is comparatively rare to see any except the Chiefs and old men saying their prayers.

The Kurds are not, as a rule, particular about the prescribed ablutions, and they are an unpleasing contrast in their persons to Turks.

The men are, on the whole, of fine physique; they are slow in their movements. The women seem more intelligent than the Turkish women, perhaps owing to their greater liberty; they do not veil except in Chiefs' families, pray when they do so in public, take part in the general circle of conversation, and converse without hesitation with strangers.

Though fairly good-looking, they are usually very dirty.

In remote districts, the Kurdish Aghas still have considerable influence, and the rank and file voluntarily yield them a submission and deference they do not show to the Government.

Raki-drinking is almost unknown in the rural districts, and is, compared with Anatolia, rare in the towns.

Education, even in the small towns, is at a very low ebb, and men who can read and write are, I believe, rarer than in the days of the Begs. Kurdish is not written, but Arabic, Turkish, or Persian, principally the two latter.

* South of this are Shiahs, and to the east of the frontier Sunnis and Shiahs mixed.

The Kurd is an apathetic cultivator, and prefers mountain districts, where he can produce enough grain (principally barley, millet, maize, rice, and a little wheat) for his wants, but where he has pasture for his goats (many mohair) and sheep, to fertile plains.

He is not much of a traveller, and is rarely found as a muleteer or cameleer, nor, as a rule, does he take to handicraft; in most of the small towns the artisans are aliens. In Southern Kurdistan, however, there are good gunsmiths, who make Kurdish rifles, daggers, &c., and even turn out imitations of Martinis and Winchesters; this is, however, only in the extreme south.

The Kurd has a radical objection to military service, and after a time deserts, in company with his arms, if he can. The remedy adopted by the Turkish authorities of sending him to such distant places as Yemen, &c., does not render the prospect of military service more pleasing.

The Kurd is proverbially stupid; not being a townsman, and living in a very small, almost barbarous, community, he is wonderfully unsophisticated and undeveloped, which accounts for it in part, but his natural intelligence does not seem of a high order.

He is not a good guide in his own mountains, whereas some of the Christians are, and is a careless, stupid sportsman. As a shot (they only shoot with bullets) he is fair at short ranges—200 yards is the outside range. The arm is a flint-lock rifle. I take it the Kurd is not as good a mountain-fighter as the Albanian, Bosnian, &c., as small detachments of Turkish troops seem to have little trouble even with large bodies of Kurds.

Powder is usually of home manufacture; in the south there is a good deal of saltpetre, in the north it is bought. In Hakkiari, and probably in other places, there is sulphur.

I do not differ from the usually accepted opinion, that the Kurd is more truculent than Turk or Arab.

They do not strike one as enterprising; a very poor Kurd will often refuse good pay as guide or to hire out an animal, even if double or treble the sum be offered which would secure the same in a Christian village.

The traditional hostility to Russia seems yet considerable in the Kurdish mountains, while there are still very kindly feelings towards Englishmen.

In the small Kurdish towns there are usually means of borrowing from Jew or Christian, and the Kurd readily entangles himself with debts wherever he can.

In the large towns few Kurds are found permanently, and those generally only of low origin. Half-bred Kurds speaking Kurdish, but townsmen or ordinary Osmanlis in their characteristics, are found in the chief towns, especially Diarbekir. At Mardin, however, there are two small Kurdish clans who have established themselves at the east and west extremities of the town.

Kurdish officials.

There are comparatively few Kurdish functionaries, and but few of the better-born have the necessary qualifications. Those I have known seem to share all the Turkish official vices.

Feudal rights.

There are very considerable traces of feudal rights still extant in remote districts. In many cases the Chief alone raises black-mail on Christians; in others it is a tribal right, which is asserted by periodical forays. The districts in which I have come across black-mail are the mountains between Moosh and the Tigris, the Bohtan, the Upper Khabur, Berwari, and the lower part of the mountain valley of the greater Zab. The tax was stated to be in some places as much as one-fourth of the produce.

Dwellings.

The houses and fortalices of the Begs were stone buildings, many of them of considerable architectural pretensions; these are, with scarcely an exception, ruined. The dwellings of the people are flat-roofed huts as a rule; in the lower districts with earthen walls, in the mountains generally of rough earth and stone rubble. They usually have merely one living room and one or more stables; sometimes only one room as stable and dwelling. In the higher districts they are considerably counter-sunk, and their roofs are nearly level with the ground, and they are usually much larger, so as to contain the sheep and cattle as well. In some places in the plains, where there is no wood, small domes are constructed of mud, the villages appearing like an assemblage of large bee-hives. The houses are always very dirty.

Nomads or Kochers.

The nomad Kurds, called Kochers, are, as a rule, better off than the sedentary, as they only pay sheep-tax to the Government, and in cases a fixed sum besides. Many of the tribes, however, pay the "khoon" or "kowee" (strength-money) to the Bedouins for the right of pasture in the desert.

Numerous tribes have a very bad reputation, whether owing to universal bad habits or a percentage of bad characters it is difficult to say.

Like the Bedouins, they live in a wretched way, and their furniture and belongings consist of the barest necessaries. They have occasionally good rugs, but both among them and the sedentary Kurds very little is produced in the region in question compared to other districts.

Periodical migrations.

They usually enter the mountains in May and leave in October. Large numbers cross the Tigris. The bridges at Mosul and Jezireh are the authorized crossing-places, as the Government takes its taxes at these places. By means of illegal payments many cross elsewhere. I witnessed a passage myself.

The people are mostly of fine physique, and are hardier than the run of sedentary Kurds. Most of the latter remain indoors nearly all the winter, and are surprisingly afraid of cold, for encountering which their clothing, usually linen and cotton, with the exception of a small goatskin pelisse, little fits them.

The Kochers do not move about as constantly as the Bedouins, and all the winter and most of the summer, if pasture permits of it, remain in standing camps.

Property.

Sheep, goats, oxen, horses, and asses form their property; camels and buffaloes I have rarely seen, and but few mules; the latter are bred, but sold early.

Arms.

A very short dirk, flint-lock rifle and pistols, and clubs, are the principal arms. Hangers are sometimes carried, and some lances by the more southerly-ranging tribes. The arms of the sedentary Kurds are the same.

List of Tribes.

List of tribes.

1. East of the Euphrates, and north of the line Birejik Urfa, Suwarek are sedentary Kurds, but no tribes of importance. Language, Kermanju. South-west of Urfa are the Seruj Kurds, in the plain district of that name. They are sedentary, and have the bee-hive hut, and are an assemblage of numerous small communities. I only know the general name, Seruj, there being no individual tribes of importance. They must number over 15,000 souls. Language, Kermanju, but Arabic is also spoken. 1. Seruj Kurds.

2. To the east of Urfa, as far as Veranshehr (Tela Antinopolis), and north-east, nearly as far as Suwarek, the Milli Kurds (or Turkmans) are met with. They are semi-nomad and pastoral, but have some hamlets, the majority only tents; their migrations are merely a little south into the desert, where they pay tribute for pasturage to the Arabs. They exact black-mail from the villages at the foot of the hills. Numbers, about 12,000 tents; formerly much more numerous. Language, Kermanju and Arabic. 2. Milli.

3. Near Suwarek is the tribe of Kara-Kechilus; sedentary and pastoral; with some semi-nomads. This tribe speaks either the Zaza dialect, or one akin to it. Religion, Alevis, or Kizil-bash; probable numbers, 500 families. 3. Kara-Kechilus.

4. East of the Millis, and between them and Mardin along the edge of the desert, are the semi-nomad Kiki, tributary to Arabs for pasture, like the Milli. They oppress the villages along the edge of the plain very much, and levy black-mail. Language, Kermanju and Arab; numbers, 900 tents. 4. Kiki.

5. Just to the west of Mardin, and at the west end of the town, are the Meshkili clan. Language, Kermanju and Arabic; numbers, 250 families. 5. Meshkilis.

6. To the west of Midiad are found the sedentary Aisa-beghin. Language, Kermanju; numbers, not exceeding 400 families. 6. Aisa-beghia.

7. Round Midiad, in Estel, Numib, Shorisba, Apshi, are the sedentary Halil-beghin. Language, Kermanju; numbers, not over 400 families. 7. Halil-beghia.

8. South of Midiad in Enkel, Kefr Shame, Dalin, and between it and Jezireh in Meziza, Bassobin, &c., are the sedentary Heverki. Language, Kermanju; numbers, not over 400 families. 8. Heverki.

9. At Sowr, one day north-north-east of Mardin, are the Sowr, a tribe of Arab descent, who came from Mecca with Sheikh Jellaladeen. They are of the Haneefeh sect of Sunnis. Language, Arabic and a little Kermanju; numbers, 450 families; sedentary. 9. Sowr.

10. Between Sowr and Hassan Kef, on the Tigris, are the Deveriyn; Kermanju. Very bad reputation. Probable numbers, under 300 families; sedentary. 10. Deveriya.

11. Between the last and Hassan Kef are the Habeshbin; not very numerous; sedentary; Kermanju. 11. Habeshbin.

12. In the plain of that name are the Kefr Joz Kurds; sedentary; Kermanju; numbers, not over 400 families. 12. Kefr Joz.

13. In the district Bisheri, adjoining the Batman Su on the north of the Tigris head-quarters, Alnadil, are the Rashkotan Kurds; nomads; zozan or summer quarters in Sassan and near Moosh; Kermanju; very bad reputation; great robbers; 500 families. 13. Rashkotan.

14. Alikanlu.

14. The Alikanlu Kurds are nomads, and winter like the last in Bisheri, on the Redvan side; zozan near the last; Kermanju; 400 to 500 families.

15. Pinjinerlu.

15. Pinjinerlu Kurds; nomads; zozan in Ali Dagh, between Bitlis and Moosh; winter, Bisheri; Kermanju; numbers, 1,000 families.

16. Atmanka.

16. Atmanka; nomads; zozan in Western Bohtan; winter quarters, I believe, near Til, at junction of Tigris and Bohtan (anyhow, I met some near there); Kermanju; 1,200 to 1,500 families.

17. Ayrulu.

17. Ayrulu Kurds on branch of Bohtan, 25 miles east-south-east from Sert; sedentary; Kermanju; bad reputation; 600 families.

18. Berwari Kurds.

18. Berwari Kurds (? as to name of tribe) inhabit the district of Bohtan Berwari, at the junction of the Mose and Shattak Rivers; sedentary; Kermanju; 500 families.

19. Musci Kurds.

19. Musci Kurds to the north of last inhabit the district of Musci to the south of Lake Van; sedentary; 1,200 families.

20. Miran.

20. Miran Kurds; nomads; zozan highlands of East Bohtan, Harakol Dagh, and district south of Musci, and as far north as Ajirof mountains, forming the watershed between Lake Van and the Bohtan; winter quarters along right bank of Tigris below Jezireh, and at times as far as Sinjar Hills; pay, or did pay, for pasture to the Tai Arabs; Kermanju; numbers, 1,600 to 1,800 tents; under Jezireh Governor.

21. Hawirri or Hâiwarri.

21. Hawirri; nomads; religion and sect, Yezidees or Asdai; language, Kermanju; zozan 20 to 30 miles north-east of Shernach, i.e., to south-east of Bohtan Berwari, under lofty Zozari Mamiri range (11,000 feet); winter quarters in a place called Douban, in valley of Khabar, near Zacho; numbers, 800 tents; under Jezireh.

22. Holukwar.

22. Holukwar Kurds; nomads; zozan to north of Shernach in same upland district as last; winter quarters near Tigris; Kermanju; a small tribe.

23. Haji Bey Kurds.

23. Haji Bey Kurds; sedentary; Haji Bairam Caza two days north-west of Zacho; Kermanju; 500 families.

24. Shernach.

24. Shernach Kurds; sedentary; in mountains 30 miles north-east of Jezireh. I am not sure of the name of the tribe, but believe it to be Shernach, as the Chief is called Shernach Aghasi. Kermanju; 800 families.

25. Musareschan.

25. Musareschan; nomads; zozan near Miran Kurds' winter quarters, right bank of Tigris below Jezireh; Kermanju; 500 tents; under Jezireh Governor.

26. Tayar.

26. Tayar; nomads; zozan in basin of Hazel River in Central Bohtan. Formerly Asdai or Yezid in religion, now nominally Moslem; winter quarters on foot-hills of Mahat Dagh, between Jezireh and Zacho; language, Kermanju; numbers, 800 tents; under Jezireh Governor.

27. Kechian.

27. Kechian; nomads; zozan same district as last; winter quarters left bank Tigris, near Jezireh; a few are settled of late near the hamlet of Desti Dagh, and to the north-east of it, within 10 miles of Jezireh; Kermanju; 700 families; under Jezireh.

28. Balian.

28. Balian; nomads; zozan and winter quarters in Central Bohtan, north and south; parts Kermanju; 500 families; under Jezireh.

29. Reshkan.

29. Reshkan; nomads; zozan in Upper Hazel and Khabur valleys, and on northern slopes of Zozari Mamiri mountains; winter quarters to south of Tigris, towards Sajjar hills; religion, Yezid or Asdai; language, Kermanju; numbers, 800 tents; under Jezireh.

30. Dudaidi.

30. Dudaidi; nomads; zozan, Central Bohtan; winter quarters, right bank of Tigris, near Feishabur; Kermanju; 600 families; under Jezireh.

31. Batwan.

31. Batwan; nomads; zozan, Central Bohtan, in mountain basin lying between Jezireh and Musci; winter quarters, the slopes of hills above the left bank of the Tigris, below Jezireh; Kermanju; 800 tents; under Haji Bairam (Shernach) Government. The Batwan and Tayar have a few rude homesteads they occupy in winter; some pitch their tents near these, and, with the aid of earth and oleander boughs, make hovels of them. A little cultivation is also done.

32. Ziviki.

32. Ziviki; nomads; zozan, Central Bohtan; winter quarters, Tigris, below Jezireh. Kermanju; 600 families; under Haji Bairam Government.

33. Sperti.

33. Sperti; nomads; zozan, near Batwan and Hawirri; winter quarters near last; Kermanju; 800 tents; under Haji Bairam.

The strength of Nos. 20, 21, and 25-33 is from an estimate by an ex-Governor of Jezireh, and is above what I had taken as the approximate number by about 30 per cent. He asserts that these eleven tribes have about 15,000 fighting men. North-east of the Central Bohtan comes Shattak.

34. Jelikan.

34. In West Shattak are the Jelikan Kurds; some sedentary, some, I believe, nomad. I believe this to be a branch of the great Jeli-Kanlu tribe of Kurds, which I have met in the Taurus, south of Malatia, and another branch of which has its zozan

near Gorun, in the Siwas Vilayet, and its winter quarters near Islahia, in that of Adana; Kermanju; [?] numbers.

35. Giresu.

35. In West Shattak are also the Giresu Kurds, few in numbers, of bad reputation; Kermanju.

There are besides in Shattak:—

36. Sortik.

36. Sortik, 850.

37. Kalpak.

37. Kalpak, 300.

38. Yezdinan.

38. Yezdinan, 2,000.

39. Barkhol.

39. Barkhol, 2,000.

40. Kakhan.

40. Kakhan, 2,000; all Kermanju speaking.

41. Kawalis.

41. Kawalis. I do not know the tribal name of the Kurds in this district, but believe they are Hartush, or allied to that tribe. They are sedentary, and inhabit Kawalis to south-east of Shattak; fourteen or fifteen hamlets. Hartush nomads visit this district.

42. Hartush.

42. Hartush Kurds; sedentary and nomad; the former, of whom the last are possibly a part, are found in Nurduz, Lewen, and East Hakkiari, and number over 2,000 families. The latter have their zozan in the district forming the watershed of the Zab, Khabur, and Bohtan, and in the Khabur and Zab valleys; winter quarters near Tigris, in Mosul Vilayet.

43. Mamhoran.

43. Mamhoran Kurds; Hakkiari; Bashkalah Sandjak; Shirwaran Caza; sedentary, but wander on raiding expeditions; to north of Hartush; Kermanju.

44. Gauvdan.

44. Gauvdan; Hakkiari; Bashkalah Sandjak; same characteristics as last; very bad reputation; Kermanju.

45. Hadjinan.

45. Hadjinan; small nomad tribe; zozan at head waters Berdawa branch of Zab, in Hakkiari; winter near Hartush; Kermanju.

46. Harjan.

46. Harjan; nomads; zozan in Nurduz, district of Hakkiari; winter quarters Tigris, near Mosul; Kermanju.

47. Shekaks.

47. Shekaks; a semi-nomad frontier Persian tribe of Kurds, north-west of Urumi, who come into Hakkiari, and have a very bad reputation. I fell in with a small raiding party.

48. Musharesh.

48. Musharesh; nomads; zozan, Nurduz district of Hakkiari; a small tribe; Kermanju; who winter near Feishabur, on the Tigris.

49. Lewen.

49. Lewen Kurds; sedentary; Kermanju to west of and near Julamerk; 2,000 families. I am not sure whether Lewen, the name of the district, is that of the tribe, or whether Lehun is that of the latter.

50. Khanunis Kurds.

50. Khanunis Kurds; sedentary; Kermanju; valley of Great Zab, above Julamerk; head-quarters Rezani, six hours from Julamerk, between Nurduz and the Zab Valley.

To the north-east are—

51. Tli.

51. Tli; sedentary; Kurds.

52. Shiwaran.

52. Shiwaran Kurds; numerous; Kermanju.

Following down the Zab Valley now come the Chaldæan tribes. I therefore take back to Nos. 23 and 24, sedentary Kurds, in the Haji Bairam district, and thence proceed east again, instead of north-east.

53. Geliyigkwoyan or Goyan Kurds.

53. Geliyigkwoyan or Goyan Kurds; sedentary; Kermanju. These people live in a most inaccessible valley of the Central Bohtan, watered by a confluent of the Hazel River; the district is about twelve hours east-south-east of Shermah. Between the Hazel and the narrow gate-like defile leading into Goyan proper is Ghilkin; six villages, the inhabitants of which are of the same race; four hours beyond is the Proper Geligkwo district, consisting of seven villages. These Kurds, who number perhaps 3,000 souls, have a very bad reputation, and the Government has undertaken numerous expeditions from time to time against them.

54. Sulupi.

54. Sulupi. To the south of Geliyigkwo, and to the west of the Hazel River, in the Plain of Zacho, and on the mountain slopes, are the Sulupi Kurds; sedentary; Kermanju.

55. Siliwani.

55. Siliwani. Beyond these, to the south of the Khabur River, and near the Tigris, on the southern slopes of the Jebel Abiadh, or Ak Dagh, are the Siliwani Kurds; sedentary; Kermanju; some fifteen small villages and hamlets.

56. Sindi.

56. Sindi. To the east of the Hazel River, south of Geliyigkwo, and between it and Zacho, are the Sindi Kurds, who also have hamlets in the mountains immediately to the south of Zacho. They are sedentary, and number about 1,000 families.

57. Guli.

57. Guli. Eastward of these, near the debouchure of the Khabur, from the mountains, and for some way up its valley, and marching with Goyyan on its east, are the sedentary Guli Kurds; a numerous tribe, like the last; also Kermanju.

The Sindi, Guli, and Goyyan are among the most turbulent tribes I have come

across, and are always giving trouble. In the Guli and Sindi districts, which are for the most part very mountainous, there are also several villages of Chaldæans (Nestorians and Catholics), *i.e.*, Mergi, Nassut, Billur, Bersiwi, Sheranis, and Keshani (mixed).

58. Berwari Kurds

58. In Berwari Gerwa, or Lower Berwari, there are numerous Kurdish villages, belonging to small clans or families; head-quarters of one Chief (Tatar Khan), Deyrish; of another, Kalat Kunoir, near hamlet Alkosh; of another, Zeresi; another, Daoudiah. These Kurds are sedentary and pastoral, and are not so mischievous as the larger tribes, of whom they are much afraid.

Berwari, Upper and Lower, or Balali and Gerwa, extends from the Khabur to the Zab. It is bounded on the north by the range running east from Ashyt, in the Chaldæan country, on the south by the Ghara range running east from Daaoudiyah to the Zab; opposite its north-east corner across the Zab are—

59. Pinyanis or Apinshay.

59. Pinyanis or Apinshay Kurds; sedentary; Kermanju; head-quarters, Tchal, east-north-east of Ameydieh. Small communities of them are also found in the Chaldæan districts of Tkhube and Jelu. They are great marauders and oppressors of the Chaldæans, and are a numerous and important tribe.

60. Rekani.

60. East of Ameydieh in the Zab Valley, and on both sides of the river, is the Rekani district. I am not sure of the name of the tribe. Rekani is the name both of the district and of a village. Head-quarters of one Chief, Terwanis, on west of Zab, below Bulbul bridge, which leads into Tchal, or Tcheli; sedentary; Kermanju.

61. Nerwi.

61. Immediately below the last, and south of Pinyanis, is Nerwi, also a district, and containing possibly a clan of a different name; sedentary; Kermanju.

The name is possibly Baden Kurds.

62. Gherdi.

62. East of Pinyanis and Rekani is Gherdi: the inhabitants are sedentary. The Chief's residence is at Khan-i-resh. There are some Chaldæans in this district; Kermanju. Beyond this is Shemdinan, where, besides those Kurds, are the Oramar Sheikh Obeydullah's people; the district is visited by nomad tribes, the Dujki and others from Persia, but I did not visit it.

63. Herki.

63. Herki; nomads. A very powerful tribe of over 5,000 tents; cantoned in summer between the Persian frontier, in Shemdinan, and the Great Zab, up the valleys of the Balui and Rukuchuk Rivers. In winter they are in the Lower Valley of the Zab, the foot-hills to the east of it, and some I believe cross the Tigris. Head-quarters of Chief, Shernin, four hours west-north-west of Akra, in the mountains.

64. Sertchi.

64. Beyond the Herki, or the bulk of them to the north and north-east, are the Sertchi nomads; Kermanju; I was told over 1,000 tents. In much the same districts as the Herki, *i.e.*, between Ameydieh and Rowanduz, are found—

65. Haylan.
66. Mamsal.
67. Mamakol.

65, 66, and 67. The Haylan, Mamsal, and Mamakol; nomads; Kermanju. These are with or near the Herki both summer and winter, and may be sub-divisions. I did not learn their numbers.

68. Misuri or Mezuri.

68. Misuri; sedentary; Kermanju; a very large tribe divided into Misuri Bala (Upper) and Misuri Sulli (Little). The latter forms a part of Bahchian, which comprises the mountain district south of the Ghara range as far as the plains from Dohuk on the east to the Zab. Misuri Sulli comprises the valleys of the Gomel and Cazir Rivers.

Upper Misuri is east of the Zab, twelve hours north-east from Akra; it is almost independent, and contains a few Jews and Christians besides the Misuri Kurds.

69. Zibari.

69. Zibari Kurds, seven hours to north-east of Akra; sedentary; Kermanju. Head-quarters, Herin and Biri Kapra. Formerly an important and war-like tribe; now completely broken by the direct action of the Government, and by the feuds it has fostered between the two Chief's families. But few remain; the head-quarters once containing 300 families does not contain thirty.

70. Shoiwani.

70. Shoiwani Kurds; sedentary; Kermanju. North-east of Zibar and between it and Misuri Bala. Head-quarters, Shoiwani. Powerful formerly; now much broken.

71. Baradost.

71. Baradost, north-east of last; extending to frontier up Valley of Rukuchuk River; sedentary; Kermanju. A lawless district, where the Chiefs till recently had some power; but it has just been laid waste, and many of the villages destroyed by the Government.

72. Pirastin.

72. Pirastin Kurds; six hours north-north-east of Rowanduz. Head-quarters, Sidaka, in defile leading to Persian frontier, also much reduced. About fifteen villages.

73. Hindiwani.

73. Hindiyan or Hindiwani; sedentary; Kermanju; north of Rowanduz. Head-quarters, Balik.

74. Rowanduz Kurds.

74. In and near Rowanduz, the hereditary Begs and Pashas of which once governed the country as far as Ameydieh, are several clans; twenty villages.

75. Herir Kurds.

75. East of the Zab and north of Arbela, head-quarters, Reshwan and Deyra, are the

sedentary Herir, in a bare, hilly country, fairly watered. They were once powerful, presumably, as there are several fine old castles and fortresses in their district. Over twenty villages and hamlets much reduced and ruined. To the south of these in the rolling down country immediately north of Altyn Kopru is a numerous sedentary tribe.

South of Arbela and Choi Sandjak I have no acquaintance with the Kurds except the Jafs; the other tribes I met were Arabs and Turkmans.

76. Hamowand Kurds.

76. Hamowands. A robber horde with no fixed abode, who, when followed, cross the frontier. They have no regular villages. I have merely passed through the country they infest. Head-quarters, district Chemchemal, seven hours from Kerkuk towards Suleymanieh; armed with breech-loading rifles and well mounted; not over 300 horsemen. Numbers variously estimated 500 to 800 families; Kermanju and Persian.

77. Jafs.

77. Jaf Kurds; Sunni; Hanefeh; Kermanju and Persian. A very large nomad tribe of over 6,000 tents (at least so I was told by Jaf Mohammed Beg). Zozan mountains near Persian frontier between Suleymanieh and Kanikin, and bordering on the Kulhur and Guran Kurds; on the whole a good reputation and submissive to the Government, though they do not give soldiers as the sedentary Kurds near Suleymanieh do.

As regards the nomads, it is not possible to give their districts more than very approximately, as these depend on state of pastures, feuds, and other considerations. Besides this, the pastures occupied by a tribe are not all contiguous, and in a complicated mountain country there are no well-defined frontiers, several tribes often occupying different spots in the same valley.

In giving the names of the sedentary tribes I may have frequently given that of the district. If you ask a Kurd, "What Kurds are these?" he will say, "Ali Agha's Kurds," naming the chief or Hadji Bairam Kurds, naming the district, while the actual name of the tribe in point is Hadji Bey. Hadji Bairam Kurd would be, however, perfectly comprehensible, and in many districts, as Zibar, Misuri, &c., the district and tribal name are undoubtedly the same. Knowing but very little Kurdish I had great difficulty on this point.

There are no doubt numerous other nomad tribes in the district described, and even more small sedentary ones, a clan sometimes consisting of a hamlet with a few families; but I do not think I have overlooked any tribe of importance.

(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

Diarbekir, April 30, 1882.

Inclosure 5 in No. 103.

Notes on the Chaldæans, by Lieutenant Chermside, R.E.

IN the term Chaldæans I include both Catholics and Nestorians.

Chaldæans: Catholics and Nestorians one race.

A great distinction is often made between the above, and I have seen it stated that the former are to be found, as a general rule in Turkey, in the plains; the latter in the mountains. This is not the case. Except in the districts of the tribal Chaldæans, all of the Nestorian faith, they are much mixed up. They are of one race, and speak one language, and formed but one Church till the secession of a large number between 200 and 300 years ago. There are mountaineers and lowlanders of both faiths. Thus, while tribes of Nestorians are found in the mountainous region of the Upper Valley of the Zab, there is a large plain population of the same faith in the city and district of Urumi, in Persia; and while Catholics are found in the city of Mosul and the adjoining plains, Catholic mountaineers are found in the mountainous Sert Sandjak of the Bitlis Vilayet, and in the valleys of the Hazel and Khabur, as wild, difficult regions as those bordering the Great Zab.

It is unnecessary for me to give a historical sketch of the influence and vicissitudes of the Chaldæan Church, which, although well regarded by the earlier Abbaside Caliphs, gradually declined, till it received its most crushing blow in the time of the ruthless Timurlenk, or Tamerlane.

The wonderful missionary labours of their Church all over Asia are a well-known historical fact.

Modern Chaldæans. Men employed for transport.

The race as it exists to-day is of fine physique. The mountaineers are active, and capable of carrying great weights. In many districts, men, whether Kurds or Christians, are employed for almost all transport.

The language used in both Churches is the ancient Chaldæan, commonly called Syriac by *savants*.

(*Note.*—Chaldæan is, however, the original language; Syriac is practically the same, but some five or six centuries ago a great divine of the Jacobite Church, which, being monophysist, was always most bitter against the Nestorian Church, wishing to make a distinction, adopted a different sound for some of the vowel points, and a slight difference in the pronunciation and orthography of a few letters. Most of the words are written in the same way in both. An educated Chaldæan can read and understand Syriac, but pronounces it differently, and *vice versâ* a Jacobite, Chaldæan.

Language.

The language of to-day is a modern dialect of Chaldæan (or Syriac), differing very slightly in various districts, and containing some Arabic, Kurdish, Turkish, and Persian words. It resembles, but is not the same as the Turani—a modern dialect of ancient Syriac, spoken in the Tur Abdin ("Mountain of the Worshippers"), or Jebel Tur, near Midiad. Thus, in Turani, "howla moya" (Arabic) means "bring water;" in the Chaldæan of the mountains it is "hivla miya."

The language, called near Mosul, Fellaheen, is spoken over a very considerable tract of country, and a newspaper is printed in it by the American Mission at Urumi.

A line from Sert down the Bohtan, thence along the Tigris through Mosul to its junction with the Great Zab, thence to Rowanduz, Urumi, and through Bash-kalee back to Sert, about comprises the district in which it is spoken by Christians, but also includes in its northern part many Armenians, some speaking Armenian, some only Kurdish.

The rural Chaldæans all know their own tongue; it is not used by the Kurds, and is only occasionally understood by Armenians.

Once more numerous in Bohtan.

The Chaldæans were once, no doubt, far more numerous than at present in the Bohtan and the Valleys of the Hazel and Khabur. Ruins of their churches, convents, and villages attest this, and it is only since the subjugation of the mountains by the Turks that the reign of terror which has followed has completely destroyed, at any rate, one considerable community. Thus, in the valley of the river called Mar Johann (St. John) by former Christians—a name no longer known for it—there were within forty years the following villages, not one of which now remains: Birkeh, Birt, Dohuki, Nanip, Jinnel, Nevisi, Zehebi, Kerini, Deyr Ajwri, Deyr Howari, and Deyr Gul (300 houses).

To the north of this I came across a ruined church on the eastern slopes of the Harakol Dagh, now towering with its perpetual snows over a vast uninhabited wilderness, and a cluster of ruined sites at a place called Charneh Kari. I can, however, give no date as to the extinction of this colony.

Two days off on the western slopes of this great mountain, however, which is distant 40 to 45 miles east-south-east from Sert, I found a colony of six villages (Nestorians), not marked in any map I have seen. Some of the villages have most curious names, with Greek terminations. There names are Sianos, Kochennes, Moranos, Geyra Tilli, Gyupsetianos, and Matianos.

There is a Bishop in Geyra Tilli. The inhabitants live a wretched hand-to-mouth life, are much reduced in numbers, and are miserably poor.

Wretched condition of rural Chaldæans.

With the exception of: (1) The tribal Chaldæans; (2) those in the Plain of the Khabur, near Zacho; (3) those in and near Mosul; (4) those near Urumi, of whom I only know by hearsay, the same as above may be said of all the Chaldæans.

Plundered as they are by both nomad and sedentary Kurds, heavily taxed, yet utterly unprotected and without redress for grievances, it is no wonder that in numbers and material condition they should be much reduced.

Like all the Christians of the East, they seem to have more capacity for progress than the Moslem, to be, for the most part, peaceably inclined, and to have in them the material of useful, industrious subjects, if they were only given a chance.

Many leave the mountains and work in the towns in winter; others, notably from Guveyr and Jelu districts, wander as far as Aleppo, making and selling baskets.

Education.

In most places in the mountains education is at a very low ebb, but young men are occasionally to be met with, speaking English or French, who have been educated in the missionary establishments at Urumi or Mosul. In the towns, however, and the more peaceful districts, there are some decent schools, and a great interest is taken in them by the inhabitants.

I was particularly struck with the large village of Tel Kef, 10 miles from Mosul. Although it has no water, but some rain pools, and there is no possibility of cultivating anything but cereals at present, it is very flourishing and go-ahead.

Many of the women go to distant cities as domestic servants; the men work as muleteers; all the hands of the river steamers, plying from Bagdad to Basrah, both

Turkish and English, are furnished by this village; they are excellent, quiet, orderly hands, hard workers, and splice and sail-make as well as English seamen.

The Chaldæan, as a rule, seems to have a more independent spirit than the Armenian. In the mountains they carry arms like the Kurds, and in many places dress like them. The resemblance between the two is so great, that a Kurd who was with me was often unable to tell at sight whether an individual were a Kurd or Chaldæan.

The tribal Chaldæans dress differently, and wear a different form of the conical cap, wider at the base. Some form of this is the universal head-dress of the mountains. The tribal form, with the addition of the two pig-tails into which the men plait their hair, gives them a resemblance to Chinese.

The mountaineers are as good shots as the Kurds, and struck me as much better guides and sportsmen.

Like most of the subject populations of the Porte, they are extremely disaffected, and have not the same substitute for patriotism, as regards the Ottoman Empire, which the Moslems have. Disaffection to Government.

They are not a pleasant people to travel among.

My own experience is that, some of the Greek population excepted, they are the least hospitable race I have met in the East. They are great raki drinkers on the occasions of their numerous feasts.

Their hovels are the filthiest to be found, except, perhaps, those of sedentary Arabs. They are uncleaner in their persons even than the Kurds, and the lanes in the villages are in a disgusting condition.

They are extremely avaricious, and fleece the traveller if they can in a way Kurds and Armenians do not.

There are two Patriarchs; that of the Catholics resides at Mosul, and is always called Mar Elia. The change in his relations to the Papal See since 1869, and in his manner of election, and the schism in the Catholic section of the Chaldæans, have been fully described in Consular Reports. The Patriarch of the Nestorians is always named Mar Shimun (Simon). Formerly he resided at Akra, but for nearly a century his residence has been at Kochannes, near Julamerk. Theoretically, he is elected by the Bishops and the people; practically, by the most influential of the tribes. The choice, however, is confined to one or two families. He should observe a perpetual fast from animal food and spirituous liquors. Religions.

The present Patriarch is young, very ignorant, chiefly interested in arms and sport, and such matters as a Kurdish Chief might be. He is given to sensual indulgence of every description.

The condition of the tribal Chaldæans, except of those near to the Government at Julamerk, seems to have improved since the power of their old oppressors (the Begs) was broken. Being comparatively autonomous and free from Government exactions, and forming besides a compact population, they do not suffer like their kinsmen in the outlying districts, and seem to have recovered in a great degree from the wholesale massacres of 1843. Tribal Chaldæans.

Theoretically they pay tribute to the Government, but have done so very irregularly, and for the past three years most of them not at all. I could not find out what this tribute was supposed to amount to except in one district where it amounts to about 125 purses per family, the latter usually of six or eight people. Taxes.

The amount is anyhow nothing like the regular taxes of the Empire, and I was told that the Governor of Hakkiari considers them over 20,000 purses, *i.e.*, 10,000,000 purses in arrears (about 90,000*l.*).

Their secluded mountain valleys have often been described. The population lives in scattered homesteads, partly doubtless owing to comparative security, but mainly for other reasons. The Kurdish hamlets are small, and sometimes, where guarded by nature against surprise, consists of scattered dwellings, but these are usually on the hill sides, and the sites are chosen for purposes of pasture.

The Chaldæans, on the contrary, select the bottoms of the valleys and the adjacent slopes, but so steep are the mountains that there is little room for cultivation. All along the valleys, therefore, the lower slopes are neatly terraced with stone-retaining walls, irrigation channels, &c. A hamlet of twenty houses often extends over a mile. As with the Armenians numerous relatives inhabit one house.

There is abundance of water in most districts. The principal products are maize, millet, rice, and tobacco. Vines, a few cereals, potatoes, and fruits are also cultivated. Products.

Some of the tribes, especially the Tiyar, have a bad reputation, and I have little doubt it is more or less merited. They have probably imbibed the traditions of the Kurds, and, where powerful enough, put them into practice on their own account. They

are at present at feud with the Hartush Nomads and the Apenshai, of Tchal. They seem an ignorant uncouth people, and their religion seems, in most cases, chiefly a matter of form and superstition. The former learning of the Nestorian Church is, I should say, completely decayed. There are few schools, and these necessarily only open in summer. The children are taught in some of the ecclesiastical establishments, one can hardly call them monasteries, as the priests are not celibates and take no vows. At some of these establishments there are large annual gatherings for some days.

The Patriarch, who receives a subvention from the Turks, is the spiritual and temporal head of the tribes, but at present the Tiyar and Tkhuba are at variance with him.

The Chiefs of the tribes are called Meleks. There are, one in Diz, one in Baz, two in Jelu, two in Tkhuba, one in Walto, two in Tiyar Proper. These are a hereditary aristocracy and have great power.

Of the evil time that is coming for these people if Julamerk becomes a vilayet head-quarters, I have spoken in my General Report. There are already a few Kurds in Tall, Walto, Tkhuba, Tiyar, and Jelu; when once the officials have found their way in, the rest will follow, the tiny fields, water-channels, &c., will be assessed at absurd rates, and the population be driven out and dispersed as it has been in many neighbouring fertile and more favoured districts.

Besides the Patriarch of the Nestorian Church, there is a Metropolitan at Mar Andisho Convent, in Shemdinan, Bishops in Jelu (and Baz), Tkhuba, Tiyar, Gerdi, Upper Berwari, and in the Bohtan, one or more, in all, I believe, about ten Sees, including Persia. The Catholics have also ten Sees in all, exclusive of Malabar.

In both churches there are fewer convents, if I may include the Nestorian establishments in that term, than among the Armenians.

The great monastery of the Catholics is at Robbin Hounuzl, on the extreme foot-hills overlooking the Assyrian Plain, there are very numerous ancient rock cells, and five Patriarchs of the early Chaldæan Church are buried there.

Of the Chaldæans of the towns I need not speak.

Distribution of Chaldæans.

The Chaldæans are distributed as follows:—

In the Sert Sandjak of the Bitlis Vilayet, Arab speaking Chaldæans (Catholics) in the town of Sert, and several Chaldæan speaking villages of the same faith up the valley of the Bohtan, a village (Nestorian), one day south-east of the junction of the Tigris and Bohtan, 2 others in the same district as the Catholics, between Sert and Deh, which is 25 miles south-east of Sert, and 3 others also Nestorian, 1 (Hartevna) of 150 houses, up the valley of the Bohtan, the 6 (Nestorian) villages already mentioned in the Caza of Ayrah to the north-east of Deh, on the slopes of the Harakol; 6 villages (Nestorian) in Bohtan Berwari, south of Moks (8 Armenian villages in same district). In Shattakh, 1 hamlet (Nestorian), in Nurduz 6 villages (Nestorian), in Alpak, I believe, 10 (Nestorian), in Lewen, overlooking the Zab Valley, and in Julamerk 12 (Nestorian). Then come the tribal Chaldæans.

Nearest to Julamerk is Diz, 6 villages (160 families, Nestorians), beyond this to the south-east Baz (550 to 600 families), 5 large villages and numerous hamlets.

Beyond Baz is Jelu, divided into Jelu Gortha (Great), and Jelu Zortha (Little), 16 villages (1,150 families), besides the Kurds.

On the Zab, below Diz, is Thaal, a sort of dependency of Tkhuba, 6 or 7 hamlets (180 to 200 families). Below this, but to the east of the river, lies Tkhuba, divided into Tkhuba or Tkhoma Layn (Higher), and Tkhuba or Tkhoma Gowain (Lower), about 8 villages and numerous hamlets (900 families).

Down the Zab below Thaal, comes Walto, a dependency of Tiyar, 5 or 6 hamlets (170 families).

Then in and to the west of the Zab Valley is Tiyar, with over 20 villages and hamlets. (Families variously estimated from 1,800 to 2,500). To the east of the tribal districts is Guveyr (Nestorian), 14 villages, and Shemdinan (Nestorian), 18 villages; below is Gherdi (Nestorian), several villages, these are all non-tribal. Below this comes Berwari Balali (Upper) and Berwari Gerwa (Lower), in which there are over 30 villages, 14 Nestorian, and the rest containing 780 families, Catholic. In Tchal Zibar and Baradost there are about 60 families of both faiths.

In the Khabur Valley there are probably 15 or 16 villages (I know 11), some are large, they are of both faiths, the majority Catholic. In the valley of the Hazeland confluents are 6 villages (Catholic), in the Khabur Plain 7 villages (Catholic), in a gorge of the Mahat Dagh under the peak Judi (the resting-place, according to local traditions, of Kurds, Christians, Jews, and Jezids of the Noah's Ark after the deluge), 1 village (Protestant). Near Jezireh 1 large village (Catholic). Below Berwari, in Haldnian and

Misuri, between Dohuk and Akra are 15 or 20 villages (principally Catholic). Then come the villages near Mosul and Mosul (Arab speaking) itself, with together about 2,400 families. There are also a few Chaldæans (Nestorian) in Van and its district; and in Diarbekir (Catholic) 450 families, Mardin 200 families (Catholic), Jezireh 60 families (Catholic), Kerkuk 750 families (Catholic), Suleymanieh 100 families (Catholic), and in Aderbijan, in Persia, there are over 30,000 Chaldæans, 1,350 families, of whom (7,000 or 8,000 souls) are Catholics, the rest Nestorian.

As regards the total numbers, I can only give a very rough estimate, it is as follows:—

Turkey—			
Tribal Chaldæans (Nestorians)	40,000		
Non-tribal Chaldæans (Nestorians)	20,000		
		60,000	
Persia		25,000	
			85,000
Turkey, Chaldæans (Catholics)		48,000	
Persia		8,000	
			56,000
Total of nation			141,000
(Of whom 108,000 in Turkey.)			

The Chaldæans of Malabar are not included.

(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

Diarbekir, April 30, 1882.

Inclosure 6 in No. 103.

Notes by Lieutenant Chermside, R.E., on some of the Populations near Mosul, and between it and Bagdad, Asdai or Yezidis, Shabbakhs, Bedjwans, Kara-koyunlu, and other Turkomans, and Jews.

Yezids.

Asdai or Yezids.—These people are tribal and non-tribal, nomad and sedentary, the latter the majority. They are found in widely-separated districts, and were formerly more numerous.

At present they are met with:—

(*a.*) Over the area comprised between the Jebel-Abiadh range, which runs east and west to the south of Zaeh, the Tigris from Feischabur to its junction with the great Zab, and the Ghazier River from its debouchure from the mountains to its junction with the Zaber, little above that of the latter with the Tigris.

(*b.*) In the Sajjar hills, in Mesopotamia.

(*c.*) Wandering tribes, wintering in northern Mesopotamia and near Zacho, and summering in the Bohtan.

(*d.*) In the Redvan Caza of the Bitlis Vilayet, and near Zok, on the confines of Sassun.

(*e.*) In the Jebel Tar, near Midiad.

(*f.*) In the Bohtan.

(*g.*) To the east of the Karaja Dagh, and south-south-west of Diarbekir.

(*h.*) Near Van and Bayazid.

(*k.*) Near Erivan, in Georgia.

(*l.*) In the Kiort Dagh, between the Giaour Dagh (Amanus) and Aleppo.

The head priest, called Sheikh Nasr, resides at Baadri, 27 miles north by east of Mosul, as does Mirza Bey, the civil and religious head.

The authority of these is recognized by all the Yezids, even those in Russia. There are now no other Beys. I did not find out any new facts of importance concerning their religion, but I think there can be no doubt it is Zoroastrian in origin. I have always noticed Yezids wherever I met them kneel or look to the sun at sunrise. Religion.

It is not necessary for me to recapitulate the little that is known on this head. The following facts concerning them may be of interest, and some not generally known.

Though acknowledging the name Yezid for themselves, which is a common Turkish word for infidel, but which may have been derived from these people, the proper appellation of the race is Asdai. Real name; Asdai.

Their language is everywhere the Kermanju dialect of Kurdish. Language.

When requiring to use a written language, Persian (not Arabic, as I have seen

stated) is the language used, probably on account of its relationship to Kurdish. I give this on the authority of Sheikh Nasr and Mirza Bey.

Reading and writing are almost unknown accomplishments among them. Sheikh Nasr can do neither. They have no schools, and education seems contrary to their ideas, if not to their religious prejudices.

The conditions of military service are contrary to their tenets, and they pay the full sum of 5,000 ps. for exemption for each man drawn. Mirza Bey told me fourteen is the annual number of recruits in the Mosul district, to liberate each of whom this sum is paid.

They are an industrious people, solely agricultural and pastoral, with the exception perhaps of a few members of the sect to be found in the towns of Mosul, Aleppo, and Damascus.

Like the Kurds, they are not townsmen. They furnish neither muleteers nor artizans. Near Mosul they are a very peaceable people, but in other places have a bad reputation. I fancy this, if merited, is due to every man's hand being against them.

They occasionally live in villages with Christians, and get on very well with them, and often attend Christian churches. They accept no converts.

Sheikh Adi—shrine a former church.

Their celebrated shrine, Sheikh Adi, was, I have learnt from several sources, indeed, it is a well-known fact among educated Chaldæans, within comparatively recent times a Christian shrine or convent dedicated to Addi, said to have been one of the seventy disciples, and called Mar Addi, or Adi. The Yezids acknowledge some connection with the Noussari of Northern Syria (worshippers of sun and moon).

Possible origin.

My own idea of their origin is that they are Armenians, or at any rate a race included in the Armenian kingdom, at the time of the introduction of Christianity. My reasons are:—

1. The resemblance of what is known of their religion to the ancient religion in Armenia.

2. The absence of any traditions among them connecting them with Persia or Arabia, and their assertion that they are indigenous.

3. Their appearance, characteristics, peaceable habits, and industry.

4. Historical evidence as to the extinction of Paganism in Armenia.

"The Armenian writers of the eleventh and twelfth century state that "the followers of Zoroaster, called 'Sons or Servants of the Sun,' withdrew for the greater part to the borders of Armenia towards Mesopotamia."

This would very well correspond with—

1. The Kurt Dagh, below Cilician Armenia.

2. The Redvan district, south of the Province of Kharzen, which was formerly one of the great Yezid strongholds, the now ruined castle there, having been, till Kurdistan fell, completely under Turkish yoke, the residence of the great hereditary Chieftain of this part of the country, who was Yezid.

This district adjoins the Jebel Tur, then come the Mesopotamian Plains, north of the Sujjar, still frequented by Yezid nomads, and doubtless before the Shammar invasion much more so, then the Sujjar and the Baadri district, east of the Tigris; the Bohtan, between Redvan and Baadri, also frequented by Yezid nomads, and formerly containing a colony of villages, of which I only know of one remaining. The connection is thus complete, I may suggest a possible derivation for the name. "Hashd," in Armenian, signifies prayer or blessing. The "h" can be dropped. A very celebrated place before Christian times, in the Province of Duruperan, Canton Daron (modern Moosh, north of Redvan), was called Asdishad, or Hasdishad, *i.e.*, "place or city of prayer." There were many Pagan temples there. The equivalent for Hashd, from which Hasdai or Asdai is easily derivable, is in the Zend language "Yeshd," from which Yezid might come.

These "Yeshds" were prayers mixed with eulogies to the person to whom the orison was addressed, and singularly enough this corresponds to those chanted by the cawals, or priests, to Sheikh Adi and Sheikh Shems (sun) at the present day.

Distribution—(*a*) Baadri.

The tolerably compact Yezid population near Mosul (*a*) is by far the most flourishing of those in Turkey. Forming a great majority in the district, they enjoy tolerable security.

The people are industrious cultivators, and have some vineyards, olive groves, and fruit gardens, but chiefly produce cereals.

The number of families were stated to be 12,000 by Mirza Bey, but I believe the total population does not exceed 30,000. It was far more numerous before the massacres some fifty or sixty years ago by the feudal Bey of Rowanduz. Baadri, Bazeni, Basheika, Barseema, Anisifin, Khanikai, and Dereban are the principal villages.

There are several tribes. Dereban on the mountain slopes in the extreme north-west of the district, Sheika and Zeni on the east. Kaidi is the name of an important tribe, and there are others whose names I do not know.

(*b*.) Sujjar.

(*b*.) In the Sujjar district there is no Bey, but numerous small Chieftains. The villages are high up on both sides of the mountain. The cultivation is on terraces. Figs, a few vines, mulberries, and other fruit are cultivated. The population is reduced in numbers and ground down by taxation. It has suffered from frequent attacks, massacres, and sacking by the Pashas of Mosul (in the old days) and more recently from the Arabs.

The tribes have perpetual feuds with one another. Their names are from east to west Bukra, Mirkhan, Mendka, Ameyra, Hubaba, Hiska, Ba Khaled, Al Dukhi, Simokiyah, and Keraniyah.

In Sujjar town are some Moslem Kurds and some Mendka, a good many of whom have embraced Islam. The principal villages are Mirkhan, Bukra, Yusufa, Aldnia, Ameyra, Semokiya, and Keraniya. The population was given to me by a Yezed Chief as 7,000 families, I doubt if there are as many individuals.

(*c*.) Nomads.

(*c*.) The nomad, or Kocher Yezids, are now-a-days by no means numerous. They winter between the Tigris and the Sujjar, and at Doubna, near Zacho, in the Khabur plain. They summer in the northern Bohtan, north-east of Shernach, and in the Upper Khabur Valley. The Hawirri and Reshkan are the only two tribes of the Yezid faith, and contain about 1,600 families. The Taiyar, 800 families, has embraced Islam.

These Kochers do not seem flourishing; those I came across in the mountains were flying before troops, and an encampment I subsequently saw near the Sujjar was miserably poor and squalid.

(*d*.) Redvan.

(*d*.) A Mirza Bey was the last Chief who ruled in Redvan, once almost wholly Yezid, but were there are now only a few families. There are three or four villages in the neighbourhood, and a few to the north in the Kharzen district, near Zok, of which Guselda is the principal. Towards Sert are also a few villages. The Redvan tribe is called Abkir, that near Sert, Akonisi, and that near Zok, Berak.

(*e*.) Jebel Tur.

(*e*.) The Yezids of the Jebel Tur have suffered much from the Mardin Government, and their villages have frequently been attacked and sacked by Bashi-Bozuks and zaptiehs. The villages lie principally from west through south to south-east from Midiad. Baguine is one of the principal; there are thirteen.

(*f*.) Bohtan.

(*f*.) In the west of the Bohtan, between Deh and Jezireh, I came across a village of Yezids Balisa. It is the only remaining one.

(*g*.) Daoudiyeh.

(*g*.) Some 18 miles south south-west of Diarbekir, on the plateau at the foot of the Karajah-Dagh, is a single Yezid village, Daoudiyeh.

(*h*.) Kurt Dagh.

(*h*.) To the west of the Afrin River there is a mountain range parallel to the Caucacus (not shown in the maps). This is well wooded and watered in most parts. South of a line running west through Kilis there are several Yezid settlements, about twenty villages and hamlets in all. The people have a bad reputation, but I found them very hospitable, and, like all the Yezids, incomparably cleaner in their dwellings and persons than Kurds, Arabs, or Christians.

(*g*.) and (*h*.)

The principal tribe of the Van and Bayazid districts is the Suppa Kaulu. I cannot speak from personal knowledge of the Yezids there, or of those in Erivan and Georgia. I should estimate roughly the probable total number of Yezids in Turkey at 50,000. There are probably not over 10,000 in Russia.

Shabbakhs and Bedjwans.

Shabbakhs and Bedjwans.—These are two kindred tribes of peculiar people who live in the district between Mosul and the Ghazir River. They are said to have a separate language more nearly resembling Persian than Kermanju Kurdish (as does Zaza); they use and understand Kermanju, however. They are classed generically as Kizil-Bash by the Turks, but have peculiar religious tenets, one item of their faith being that Christ is hidden somewhere on earth, and will appear.

This much resembles the idea of the Ilahis of the Luristan border concerning Sheikh Meked, and I am inclined to fancy they are kindred to the latter, who believe in the the incarnation of the Deity in the person of Ali, whom they worship. There are other rites of Pagan origin, of which little is known. The Shabbakhs and Bedjwans have neat, clean shrines, with fluted spires, like the Yezidis, and are in a fairly tranquil state. They are poor and inoffensive; there are about twenty hamlets and villages of them. A few of these are in the mountains in the Dohuk Caza, on the lower course of the Gomel River. I was unable to see their Sheikh, who was absent.

Turkmans.

Turkmans.—There is a considerable Turkman population near Mosul. I was informed that the inhabitants of Babanit, a large well-built village, a day's journey up the Tigris from Mosul, had a language and religion of their own. They are, however,

Moslems, though some are Alevis, or Kizil-Bash, and their language is Turkish, or Turkman.

These people must be, I think, of Seljuk origin, and the descendants of one, if not both, of the rival factions of Ak Koyunlu and Kara Koyunlu, so powerful in Bagdad in the latter days of the Abbaside Caliphs, as there is a village of the actual name of Kara Koyunlu (black sheep owners) and others of the same tribe.

As far as the junction of the great Zab, there are some twenty hamlets of Turkmans, chiefly on the left bank of the Tigris, and on or near the river; they are an inoffensive people, partly agricultural, partly pastoral, many living in tents, but in their own districts.

In the desert on the east of the Tigris, half way to the Sinjar, is a large village, Tel Afer, the population of which is of the same origin.

After passing the Zab along the route of the post road, I was surprised to find that, as far as the Jebel Hamrin hills, the bulk of the population is Turkish, doubtless of Turkman origin. On the right of the road is desert tenanted at times by nomad Arabs, on the left are the Kurdish hills. In Arbela, Altyn-Koprn, and Kerkook the majority is Turkman or of that origin, while the small towns of Taze Khurmati, Taouk, Tuez Khurmati, Kara Tepe, and Kifri (all Turkish names, as is Altyn-Koprn) are nearly purely Turkish.

The people have the kindly hospitable nature of the Turkmans. They live in compact solidly-built little towns, as they are exposed on one side to the Kurd, on the other to the Arab, and there are but very few villages or hamlets.

South of Kerkuk, as far as the Jebel Hamrin, besides the towns there is a large tribe of Turkmans called Bayat. The majority of these are nomad, but remain always in the same district. They number, I believe, over 3,000 families.

Jews.—In these districts there are a good many Jews, doubtless remnants of the Babylonian captivity. The small town of Zacho is mainly Jewish; in Dohuk and Akra there are Jews, and in Berwari, a Jewish village near Akra, Jews in Zibar, a village (Saidi) in Upper Misuri, and a few poor weavers of the same nationality in Shemdinan and Baradost, and I have heard of a small tribe of Jewish nomads further north in Hakkiari. These outlying communities are very poor and much oppressed; in one case I met some who had abandoned their village. Some of the Kurds, too, are of very Jewish type, and on the frontier of Luristan is a tribe, I think the Kulhurs, who General Rawlinson, from their type, considered to be descendants of captive Jews.

(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

April 30, 1882.

No. 104.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 10.)

(No. 542. Confidential.) *Constantinople, July* 3, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch I have received from Sir C. Wilson, inclosing some notes on the Kurdish movement supplied by Lieutenant Chermside during his recent journey in Kurdistan.

I have conveyed to that officer, through Sir C. Wilson, my appreciation of this interesting document.

As there has been no time to have a duplicate made of it, I shall be obliged if your Lordship will cause a copy of it to be forwarded to me when printed, for preservation in the archives of this Embassy.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 104.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 22. Confidential.) *Konieh, June* 17, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith some interesting notes on the Kurdish movement, which have been furnished to me by Lieutenant Chermside, C.M.G., Royal Engineers.

The paper is transmitted in original, as there has been no time to have a duplicate copy made.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 104.

Notes on the Kurdish Movement.

THE Kurdish movement, under Sheikh Obeidullah, which in 1879 developed considerable importance locally in Turkey, and in 1880 culminated in the invasion of Persia, from all I could learn, is completely broken.

The generally-accepted idea of its strength and extent I believe to be a greatly exaggerated one.

As regards the first movement, it seems to have been originally one of those local disturbances which are very common in Turkey, and which usually result in the peasants of the neighbourhood suffering at the hands of both insurgents and troops, and in the Pasha in command considerably enriching himself. In this case, however, Kurd after Kurd has assured me, it was fostered by the Government, and that, with easy routes open to Guveyz and the frontier, and available force at hand, it could have been crushed at any moment: one cannot, therefore, avoid the conclusion that, for the sake of a political cry of a Kurdish question, the Government at any rate tolerated it.

It ended for the season in the Sheikh's receiving a decoration.

His conciliatory treatment of the Christians, however, and numerous other points, evince that he himself was cherishing ideas of independence.

As regards his next proceedings, everywhere there was only one opinion, that they were connived at and encouraged by the Turkish Governor of Hakkiari.

The Turkish frontier authorities are exceedingly jealous of, and inimical to, the Persians, and the animosity of Sunni and Shiiah is very intense in this district, owing to the fact of their being many Sunni Kurds in Persian Kurdistan under Shiiah domination, whose by no means imaginary grievances and wrongs naturally excite the sympathy of the kindred Kurdish tribes in Turkish territory, who are all Sunnis. These circumstances of course commended themselves to an ambitious man, anxious to set up an independent frontier principality.

With the details of the invasion precipitated by the episode of Hamza Agha, I have, of course, nothing to do.

Sheikh Obeidullah is of the Shaafi sect, as are the vast majority of the Kurds as far south as Rowanduz. Near Khanikin and Suleymanieh they are followers of the traditions of the great Kurdish Saint, Abdul Kader Gilani, a Hanefeh. I have seen it stated that the Sheikh's sanctity was owing to his being the latter's lineal descendant. This is not the case; and I believe he is in no wise related to his descendants. He is the son of the fanatic, Sheikh Tahar, reputed to have been the main instigator of Beder Khan's massacres of the Chaldean Christians in 1843.

Sheikh Obeidullah is a dervish of the Halidi Nakshebendo order; one, I believe, very akin to the Rufoya sect, of which the Sultan is a dervish.

His own aims appear to have been pretty clear, but there is very little evidence to prove that his following was animated by anything but a general spirit of lawlessness, religious animosity, and hopes of plunder. While there is no doubt that the sympathies of many of the petty chieftains, for none others remain, were with him, the vast majority seemed to have acted with prudence, and determined to wait.

The Sheikh himself, it must be remembered, is not a tribal leader of old family, and would naturally be looked on with much jealousy. After the surrender of Beder Khan, his father accepted the hospitality of the chieftain or Mir of Shemdinan (Mousa Beg), who lived at Nehri, and since then he and his family have been established in Shemdinan.

In Zibar, Rekani, Pinyanis, Tehal, Shirwan, Baradost, Nerwi, and Huidiyan, the adjoining almost purely Kurdish districts, little subject as most of them are to Government authority, I could only hear of two men of any note who had joined him, and as in many cases this information was first-hand, and subsequently corroborated by common report, it is probably correct.

One of these two men, Sheikh Fathullah, or Fathullah Beg, in the district north of Rowanduz, apparently drew on himself, for causes that I cannot precise, far different treatment from the Government to that which was meted out to its rebellious subject

who had wantonly carried fire and sword into a neighbouring friendly kingdom. A large expedition, of which the Consuls do not seem to have heard (four battalions I was told by some of the soldiers concerned), marched, under Shaban Pasha, surrounded village after village at night, sacked and plundered them, and methodically demolished the houses with working parties.

To the completeness of the work I can testify. In the Sheikh's own district, however, which I did not visit, I was assured by numerous good authorities nothing of the sort was done.

The Sheikh's following was apparently composed of Kurds from his own small district: the Oramcor, 300 to 400 families; the Shekaks, a frontier tribe (part Turkish, part Persian); the Hyderanda (Persian); the Menturi (Hamza Agha's, Persian); the Mamash and Sekina (sedentary, Persian); some Nikri and Karapapak (Persian, Shiials), who were obliged to join; a good many of the large Herki tribe of nomads (Turkish), but not the principal men; some of the Hartush nomads (Turkish); and individuals of adventurous character from Alpag, Tulamerk, Guveyr, Tchal, Pinyanis, Nerwi, Rekani, Shirwan, Baradost, Gerdi, and Shemdinan.

His following was such that it was bound to melt away under certain circumstances, almost as probably after victory productive of much loot, as under defeat, and in any case on the approach of winter.

I look on the statements current in the country as to the whole country to Basrah being at his mercy as utterly misleading. The Turks have only small garrisons, it is true, in Diarbekir, Sert, Jezireh, Mosul, Kerkuk, and Bagdad, unable at a moment's notice to conduct a campaign in a difficult mountain region, possibly even unable to concentrate rapidly in sufficient numbers in the plains to defend threatened points, so that I will not deny that he, or any other Kurdish leader, might make a possibly successful raid on Mosul, or even Bagdad, but it would be only a raid.

The population of the plains and the large towns is not Kurdish.

Finding that the movement was developing very different tendencies to what was intended, the Stamboul authority determined to stop it, and did so with consummate ease.

Sheikh Obeidullah had always acknowledged the Padishah as suzerain, and it was only of local authority that he wished to be independent. He had stated throughout that he would not fight against the Sultan's troops, and he did not, though Fathullah and others appear to have done so.

The movement appears, therefore, to have influenced only a very moderate section of country. None of the Chiefs, and hardly any subordinates, joined from Rowanduz; none from Suleymanich; but a few from near Choi Sandjak. East of the Zab few, if any, took part, unless the Hartush nomads be counted, and a few privates from Zibar.

As regards the present state of the movement, it is quite dormant for want of leaders; and as long as the Turks take care this shall be the case there is little to fear. Sheikh Obeidullah's son, Abdul Kader, is causing the Turks a little anxiety, and they would be glad to get him to Stamboul. The proximity of the Persian frontier is their difficulty.

The Kurdish League movement, as regards any political aspirations of the mass of the Kurds, I look on as quite fictitious and unimportant; it is, I take, an invention of the Palace and of the Turkish authorities at Van. The rank and file of the people seem to know absolutely nothing about it; but occasionally one meets a travelled individual, or one who is of some importance and is on good terms with the Government, who will tell one what he has heard about it in the newspapers!

The name is merely a political nickname for a deep-seated feeling that exists, namely, religious animosity. The Kurds are very ignorant, and, consequently, bigoted; almost the only one thing that could unite them would be to elevate the Christian at their expense. Do this, or intervene actively in his behalf, and there is a ready-made league, only waiting the *mot d'ordre* from Stamboul to act as the Bosnian and Albanian Moslems have done. If encouraged to do so, they would resent the equality of the Christian; any superiority of privilege they might effectually resent of their own accord.

The Kurdish power I look on as completely broken; in their best days the numerous clans could never unite. The vast majority of the Kurds I have seen are tribal; the larger part small sedentary clans, varying usually from five to thirty hamlets; tribes of fifty hamlets and upwards are comparatively rare. There are also some large nomad tribes; the Miran, Hartush, Herki, and Jef are the biggest of these I have seen, and are described in a separate paper.

The Kurdish clans are almost all at feud with one another, and they no longer have powerful Chiefs. Government has always been able to prevent their combining, and

this is now easier for it than of old. Lawless and predatory, they are ever ready for mischief; it is only a question of leaders.

The insurrection of three years ago under Beder Khan Beg's sons, Osman and Hussein, while it showed how easy it is for leaders with a traditional name to get a following, showed also, by the fact of so many Headmen siding with the Government, how little power of combination exists among the clans.

The causes, therefore, that make any combination against the Government difficult and improbable, are—

1. The feuds and factions.
2. The want of leaders.
3. The absence of definite political aspirations.
4. The isolation of the different tribes.

The result of the clan feuds is that the Kurds, except the nomads, who also frequent regular routes and pastures, move about very little. I could give numerous instances where neither Chiefs nor subordinates can go in safety beyond the limits of their district.

5. The smallness of the communities, which results in the influential men living far apart and rarely seeing each other.

6. The fact that hardly any Kurds live in the cities.

This is an important point. Agitations and revolutions almost always have their *foci* in cities, where men meet, hear news, and exchange views.

Many of the influential Moslem townsmen are most disaffected to the Sultan's Government, but these men have no influence with the Kurds. The latter have a few small towns (or villages) of their own, widely scattered, and holding little communication. In the large cities, Urfa, Berejek, Malatia, Kharput, Van, Diarbekir, Mardin, Mosul, and Kerkuk, the Kurds form an insignificant portion of the population.

The Chiefs exiled by Abédine Pasha have returned with two exceptions (one absent on private affairs). I met several of them. The Sultan appears to have condoled with them on their imprisonment, and to have presented them with 5,000 piastres each. As many of them were the scourge of their districts, and as opinion was unanimous as to the good results of the measure, however harshly it may have been executed in some cases, it is hard to understand why they have been sent back, until, at any rate, some of the promised reforms had been attempted; and it is difficult to avoid the suspicion that they may have been sent to be at the head of their tribes, in case they are required to agitate against reform for the Armenians.

Broken as the Kurdish Chiefs are, their followers are from tradition wonderfully loyal to them, and would always join them in any ordinary expedition or insurrection. Much as they dislike Osmanli domination, they appear to have the strong feeling of the ordinary Moslem against Russia. I do not think any one can prophesy with certainty on this point, but, contrary as it is to most of the opinions I have heard, it is my strong impression that, even if their Headmen were bought or persuaded over, it would always be in the power of Turkey to array them against Russia, or any other Christian Power who might be operating in the country.

Were there a great leader, such as Sheikh Obeidullah might possibly have become had he been able to consolidate and extend his influence, but such as, if my estimate be correct, he is not, it might be otherwise, if, as the price of his alliance, he was promised independence.

Suleyman Pasha, ex-Commander-in-chief, with whom I conversed at Bagdad, was even of opinion that Turkish emissaries would be able to enlist the assistance of the Shiiah tribes of the Persian frontier in any such case.

In conclusion, I would remark that, as my inquiries were concerning a fallen cause and its adherents, my opinions may be erroneous.

(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE, *Lieutenant, R.E.*

Diarbekir, April 18, 1882.

No. 105.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received July 17.)

(No. 568.) *Therapia, July* 8, 1882.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 38 of the 26th May to your Lordship, in which I had the honour to inclose a despatch from Major Everett, reporting on the alleged persecution suffered by the Protestants at Erzingian at the hands of the Gregorian

Armenians, I have the honour to inclose a further despatch on this subject from Major Everett, stating that he has arrived at Erzingian, and that he has found, upon making inquiries, that the information he received of the Protestant persecution is founded upon fact, and that its existence is generally admitted by persons of all sects.

In the absence of the Armenian Bishop, Major Everett has spoken seriously to the leading members of the Armenian community and to the masters of the schools, and he expresses the hope that nothing further will now be heard on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 105.

Major Everett to Major Trotter.

(No. 14.)
Erzingian, June 23, 1882.

Sir,

IN my despatch No. 8 of the 6th May I reported to you that a Protestant Armenian, by name Donatosian, had been imprisoned on a charge of writing a letter to the Bishop of this diocese threatening his life.

A few days before my arrival at Erzingian, Donatosian was released, by order of the Erzeroum Court, on the ground of insufficient evidence. Whether he was really guilty of the crime imputed to him will, therefore, remain an open question; but, in any case, the conduct of the Bishop throughout the affair is much to be regretted, and this seems to be the opinion of every one. I have been told by one of the clergy that they went in a body to request him to act in a more generous manner.

I also mentioned to you, in the despatch above alluded to, that the Protestants in this city were reported to me as suffering oppression at the hands of the Gregorian Armenians. Since my arrival I have made inquiries from all communities and creeds, and I am compelled to the conclusion that the report which reached me at Erzeroum is true. It is very generally admitted that oppression has for some time past existed, and a leading Gregorian Armenian assured me that the instigators are to be found in the Directors of the Social School.

The American Board, intending to send a missionary here, has lately purchased a house and started a school. The Directors of the Social School, so my informant tells me, fearing that these steps would ultimately lead to a withdrawal of pupils from their own school, endeavoured to incite the population against the Protestants, and influenced the Bishop to preach publicly against their religion. The stone-throwing alluded to in my former despatch, and the maltreatment of the Bible-seller, are some of the results. The Bible-seller was again assaulted and beaten on the night of my arrival. I caused the offenders to be handed over to the authorities, who will, I hope, make an example of them.

I was sorry not to be able to speak to the Bishop on the matter, but he left Erzingian the day before I entered the city. He appears to have obtained considerable influence over the authorities, and should, therefore, be popular with his people. I do not find, though, that this is the case. In his absence I have spoken seriously to the leading Armenians and the masters of the schools. I have also talked to the Protestants, who are apt, from over-zeal and indiscretion, to bring persecution on themselves. I trust, therefore, that we shall not hear anything more on the subject; but should there be any repetition of these acts of oppression, it will, perhaps, be necessary to take some stronger steps to secure the peace of the Protestant community.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

No. 106.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received July 17.)

(No. 571.)
Constantinople, July 10, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond, reporting on the state of insecurity which prevails in the eastern cazas of that vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 106.

Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 27.)
Trebizond, June 25, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE often called attention, within the last five years, to the state of anarchy which prevails in the eastern districts of this vilayet. My last Reports were dated the 12th September and 15th December last, and respectively marked Nos. 54 and 71.

As usual, the winter months, during which, as I have duly pointed out, the apprehension of brigands is only possible, put a stop to their depredations; but with the return of the spring, which allows them to evade pursuit by taking refuge in the mountains, they have resumed their nefarious acts.

The following are the cases that came to my knowledge, but more are those of which nothing is ever heard.

Towards the beginning of April last the Tchordanoglous (of whom I have often spoken) boarded a boat in which was a Mollah of Atina named Hamid Effendi, and killed him in the presence of his mother, who was travelling with him. They then crossed the Russian frontier, and are since at Makriyallo, only waiting no doubt for an opportunity to resume their usual calling.

I must here point out that this Hamid Effendi was one of the witnesses on whose evidence Rushdi Pasha (reference to despatch No. 34 of the 18th June, 1881) was condemned, and that the Tchordanoglous are related to him.

On the 14th April last thirty Greek women, accompanied by four lads from the village of Tourna Santa, were engaged in gathering dead wood from a forest situated between Surmenah and Santa, and the ownership of which is claimed by the inhabitants of both places, when they were attacked by a gang of fifteen or twenty Mussulmans. Though some of the Greek women confess that they were outraged, the Santalis have only brought an action for assault against the Surmenelis, stating that by exposing the truth they would only bring dishonour on their countrywomen without obtaining redress.

They are justified to say so, for the trial has not yet taken place of three Surmenelis apprehended in 1879, out of a band of forty or fifty brigands who had plundered a caravan of thirty Santalis, murdered three of them, and wounded as many. (Reference to despatch No. 3 of the 18th January, 1879.)

Towards the beginning of May last a band of fifteen Mussulmans repaired to Arsen, a small place at Youmrah, robbed the little that they found there, killed the nephew of the Mufti of Surmenah, who, being there, attempted to make off in a boat, and wounded another Surmeneli who happened to be passing on horseback, depriving him of 2 liras which he possessed.

A fortnight after they broke into the house of a certain Ali, in the village of Ladom, asked for money, and as there was none to give they cruelly beat the inmates, plundered the house, and shot dead a lad of 14 who attempted to run away.

On leaving Ladom they outraged Turkish women whom they met at a mill, on their way to the mountains.

The body of a murdered man was shortly after discovered between the villages of Varvara and Kodjaban, but could not be identified.

Thirty soldiers were ordered to assist the few zaptiehs stationed at Youmrah and Surmenah, but their combined exertions being of no avail, the Government at Trebizond imprisoned two of the leading Mussulmans in the former caza, Mehmed Aga and Suleiman Aga, who, in order to obtain their release, soon caused to be apprehended twelve individuals under suspicion of being implicated in the above outrages and in that of Skarfa (reference to despatch No. 42 of the 4th August last), but they do not seem to have hit on the right men, for the band, far from losing any of its strength, increased, on the contrary, to thirty men.

I understand that about half of them are from the village of Coccoonda, in Surmenah, who, having turned out their families, burnt their houses, in order to manifest their intention to lead in the future a life of brigands, and the remainder from other villages in the same caza and in that of Youmrah, who, being unable to meet repeated demands of money from the Government, were threatened with incarceration.

The soldiers who had been sent to Youmrah by the Acting Military Commander having been recalled by the Commander himself on his return from the capital—though there are instructions that they should assist the police—the civil authorities in this vilayet were again compelled to apply to Djafer Aga of Youmrah (reference to despatch No. 54 of the 12th September last), who had already assisted them in capturing brigands.

The band being about to remove from the seashore to the inland districts, Djafer Aga sent his followers to wait for them in a narrow passage; five of the outlaws were killed, and amongst them their leader Tozali, but the remainder made good their escape.

However, the authorities at Trebizond are satisfied that perfect security is re-established at Surmenah and Youmrah, but I am far from sharing their confidence, though there may be tranquillity for a certain time.

In the first days of the present month a Mussulman of Youmrah, having carried off the wife of one of his co-religionists, insisted on a Greek named Haralamba to conceal her in his house, and on his refusal to do so, shot him dead.

The partizans of the murderer, headed by the Mukhtar and other leading Mussulmans of Youmrah, threatened with death Haralamba's brother, who had witnessed the deed, if he ever declared the names of the parties concerned in the assassination.

He therefore denied before the judicial authorities having identified the murderers, but explained his position to the Greek Archbishop, who pointed out to the local authorities the untenable position in which were placed his co-religionists.

In fact, if they refused to comply with the illegal requests of outlaws, they were killed by them, and, again, ran the risk of being murdered if they accused them; and in either case they could not reckon on the protection of the police.

Only two of the abettors of the murderers have hitherto been arrested.

I have also to report the case at Hochoglan, near Trebizond, of a Turk who was killed by two of his co-religionists in defending a Christian into whose house they had broken at night. The murderers were apprehended.

Only two cases came to my knowledge from the western districts of this vilayet.

At Uniah Laz emigrants wounded an Armenian, and robbed him of 200*l.* Three of the aggressors were apprehended after a long struggle with the police.

At Fatza another Armenian was murdered and robbed of 300*l.* by seven Laz and Circassian emigrants. Three of the murderers were killed by the police, but the remainder escaped.

However slow and inefficient is the action of the police in most cases, that of the Judicial Courts is still more so. There are cases which seem doomed to never be investigated into, though the presumed culprits are in prison.

The Judicial Inspector who lately visited the western districts has recommended that a Criminal Court of First Instance should be established at Kerassond, in order to relieve the Criminal Court at Trebizond of part of the numerous cases sent here from that quarter. He confesses that the other Courts which exist now in those cazas are worse than nothing.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 107.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 31.)

(No. 619.) *Constantinople, July* 20, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a Report I have received from Lieutenant-Colonel Pieton Warlow on the subject of a recent journey he has made through the eastern and southern parts of the Vilayet of Khudavendikyar.

I have expressed to Colonel Warlow my thanks for the interesting information contained in this despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 107.

Lieutenant-Colonel Warlow to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 6.) *Aidin, July* 13, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to submit, for your information, the following notes on the condition of the eastern and southern districts of the Khudavendikyar Vilayet, through which I have just made a tour, visiting the places marginally noted.*

* Gimlek, Isnik, Lefke, Sagud, Eski Sheher, Kutahia, Kara-Hissar, Sandúklu, Ischel

2. The Caza (district) of Gimlek contains a population of some 36,000 souls, of whom nearly three-fourths are Christians, Armenians numbering about 16,000 and Greeks 7,500, these latter being found only in the town of Gimlek and in villages on the sea coast. The principal industry is the rearing of silkworms, of which every house is now full. There is little or no disease amongst them this year, and the out-turn promises to be good. For several years past the eggs (technically termed "seed") produced in this country have been very bad, and now almost the whole supply required for the town, and about half that for the district, has been imported from abroad, the eggs from France and Italy being most esteemed.

Vines, olives, and mulberries are cultivated to a great extent throughout this district.

3. The large villages of Chengalur, Ortakeuy, and Yenikeuy, clustered together on the northern shore of the Lake of Isnik, contain the bulk of the Armenian population of the district, who form an entirely distinct community. They were formerly in an extremely flourishing condition, but of late years, owing to stagnation in the silk trade, combined with disease amongst the silkworms, they have been greatly impoverished, and find much difficulty in paying their taxes, which are now, they tell me, £ T. 300 in arrears. With reference to this they complain that the valuation of land on which the "emlak" (property tax) is based, made many years ago, is still adhered to, although the actual selling price of land has fallen in some instances as much as 75 per cent.; and that fields from which mulberries have been removed, and replaced by wheat or barley, are still rated at their original value, *e.g.*, 200*l.* to 300*l.* per acre, instead of on their real value as grain land, viz., £ T. 50 per acre. In fact, the land tax has been raised from 4 in the 1,000 to 16 or 20, owing to the Government failing to recognize the changes which circumstances have caused in the value of landed property.

4. Notwithstanding their reduced condition, the community keeps up a good free school at Yenikeuy (population, 7,000 to 8,000); they have an attendance of 300 boys and 150 girls, this small number being accounted for by the early age at which children are married or set to work. The total cost of the school is £ T. 230, of which £ T. 105 is drawn from an endowment and the balance made up by subscription.

5. The villagers suffer a good deal from the cattle-lifting propensities of the Circassians located some 10 miles off, on the northern side of the Samanlu Mountains.

6. On the 5th October last a daring outrage was committed by a party of brigands, who, just after dusk, entered a shop on the outskirts of the village (Yenikeuy), and carried off its owner; some days later a letter signed by him was received by post, requiring that £ T. 1,500 should be taken to a certain spot on the mountains; as his people could not raise anything like the ransom demanded they left the unfortunate man to his fate, and nothing further has been heard of him. His captors are believed to have belonged to a gang of Greek robbers who infested the mountains about that time.

7. Isnik is a "mudirliq" (sub-district) attached to Jenisheher, its population about 6,500, of whom only 700 are Christians (Armenians); climate is very unhealthy, especially in summer, but soil good; silkworms are reared in every village, and opium is grown to some extent; the Lake of Isnik abounds with excellent fish, which find a ready market at Brussa, but scarcely a boat is to be seen; occasionally one or two are brought over from Gimlek by Greek fishermen.

8. Lefke, on the Sangaius, a mudirlig of Bilijik, with population of 7,400 Turks and 840 Greeks. All the latter are collected in the village itself, which consists of only 700 or 750 houses.

9. Bilijik, a caza containing a population of about 50,000 Turks and 9,500 Christians; the town, with population of 2,500 Turks, and about the same number of Christians, is a local centre of the silk trade, and can boast twenty-two factories for spinning off raw silk, which, when all at work, give employment to 1,300 hands, at wages varying from 2½ to 5 piastres (5*d.* to 10*d.*) a-day; owing to stagnation in the trade five of these factories were closed during the whole of 1881, while five others worked for only four months. None are open at present, as the cocoons are not yet ready, but there is likely to be some improvement this year, as the silkworms seem to be healthy; still here, as at Brussa, and, indeed, throughout the silk-producing districts, everyone is complaining of bad times. As a consequence of lessened production of silkworms mulberry gardens have fallen, of late years, from £ T. 50 to £ T. 30 an acre, but the price of all other descriptions of land is stationary.

10. Sogud, a mudirliq of Bilijik, has a population of about 17,000, of whom only 3,500 are Christians; the town, 850 houses, is nearly equally divided between Turks and

Christians; it is the depôt of a battalion of Redifs, with a permanent staff of officers and arms, ammunition, &c., for 2,000 men; outside the town is the tomb of Ortagrul, father of Osman, once a noted place of pilgrimage, but now almost deserted and in very bad repair. The mountains south of Sogud form the boundary of the Brussa Sandjak, and also of the silk-producing districts in these parts.

11. Throughout the country through which I have passed between Isnik and Sogud the crops are, or promise to be, unusually good, and the locusts, which appeared in formidable numbers, have been utterly destroyed, thanks to the energy infused into the local authorities by his Highness Ahmed Vefyk Pasha, seconded, fortunately, by the advent of vast flocks of the locust-eating bird.

Although the country cannot be said to be altogether free from robbers, it is not much troubled by them.

12. Eski Shehr, a caza of Kuitahia Sandjak, with a population of about 52,000; the town, population 5,200 Turks and 1,900 Christians, is known principally as the depôt of the meerschaum trade, which is almost entirely in the hands of Greek and Armenian merchants; they, too, complain of bad times, but their numbers are, nevertheless, on the increase, and new houses are springing up on every side; the price of meerschaum has fallen of late, and the demand this year is said to be less than usual; the nearest mines are distant about 20 miles nearly due east, and from thence are to be found over a large extent of country on both sides of the Pursak River.

13. There is also a considerable trade in mohair, which, however, has fallen off very much owing to low prices and to the great blow which it received from the terrible winter of 1879-80, during which nearly three-fourths of the mohair goats died, or were killed, owing to want of food; at present there are about 60,000 goats in the caza, and the export last year amounted to 140,000 okes (170 tons) of mohair, all of which had to be sent to Ismid on pack animals, there being no road practicable for carts, even in fine weather.

14. Kuitahia, although once an important place, and even now the capital of a sandjak containing 510,000 people, and the head-quarters of a division of Redif, has no trade or industry of any sort excepting a little manufacture of glazed tiles and pottery; it has a population of 12,000 Turks, 3,600 Greeks, 2,280 Gregorian and 720 Catholic Armenians.

15. Throughout this sandjak the crops are in excellent condition, and locusts have been entirely destroyed; but, owing to their ravages for three successive years, the people have been reduced to the most abject poverty, a very large amount of land has fallen out of cultivation, and, even under the most favourable circumstances, it will take several years to repair the damage which has been done. The country might easily support two or three times its present population, and, even now, might export a large quantity of cereals; but, owing to the non-existence of roads, the villagers have no encouragement to cultivate more land than will suffice for their own wants; agriculture is carried on in the most primitive manner, and one sees everywhere the small carts, with two wheels of solid wood, that were used in these parts (Phrygia) in the days of Midas.

16. The country in general is tolerably safe, but the road across the mountains to Brussa is infested by robbers, mostly Circassians, a colony of whom are settled down in that direction.

The route which I took from Kutahia to Kara-Hissar, by Kumbett, led over a magnificently wooded country, with splendid pasture land, but for miles together not a soul was to be seen.

17. Afiun Kara-Hissar is the chief town of a sandjak containing 100,000 people and the head-quarters of a brigade of Redif, but it has a population of only 16,000 Turks and 5,000 Armenians, and is known only as a great centre of the opium trade, that plant growing well in all parts of the sandjak; last year the opium exported viâ Smyrna amounted to 120,000 okes (147 tons), but now the first crop has been nearly ruined by the long winter, and it is estimated that the total yield will be much below the average.

18. Mohair goats were introduced here only ten years ago, and since then have steadily increased in number; only about 20 per cent. died in the disastrous winter of 1879-80, and now there are about 100,000 in the sandjak; owing to the increase of taxation last year from 4½ to 6½ piastres per goat, the people found it impossible to make any profit, and had begun to kill off their stock, but the reduction to the old rate of taxation has put a stop to this ruinous destruction of valuable animals.

19. Throughout this sandjak, as in Kuitahia, the people are terribly impoverished by the loss of their crops during three years, and here, as there, the locusts have been completely destroyed and crops promise well.

20. Sandukli is the chief town of one of the richest cazas in the Kara-Hissar Sandjak, has a population of about 5,000 people, all Moslem, and is the depôt of a battalion; in no part of the Khudavendikyar Vilayet has the distress been greater than here, and even now the people are in worse case than in any place which I have seen during my tour; owing to want of seed, only a small proportion of the available land has been cultivated, and however good the harvest may prove, it will not suffice to feed all the villagers, nearly half of whom have been obliged to leave their fields entirely untilled, and are living on the charity of their neighbours, or on such odd jobs of work as they can pick up. No assistance has been given by Government, and the taxes, large arrears of which have of necessity accumulated, have not been remitted.

21. Ischal, the most southern point of my tour, is a caza with a population of about 50,000; the town itself contains 800 houses, all of Moslems; the climate and soil here being suitable for vines and cotton, as well as opium and cereals, the people are, comparatively speaking, in a flourishing condition, the neighbourhood of the Aidin and Smyrna Railway giving them a market for their produce.

22. Before concluding this despatch I may as well mention that I find no improvement in the government of the province; the Courts of Justice are as corrupt, and the general administration as feeble, as ever.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. PICTON WARLOW.

No. 108.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 31.)

(No. 621.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, July* 20, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch I have received from Major Trotter containing information with regard to the Vilayet of Diarbekir.

I have brought Mr. Boyadjian's remarks respecting the Vali of Kharput to the notice of the Sublime Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 108.

Major Trotter to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 34.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July* 17, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to report that I have received a despatch from Mr. Boyadjian Acting Vice-Consul at Diarbekir, informing me of the arrival there of his Excellency Samih Pasha, the new Governor-General. His Excellency was accompanied by the recently-appointed Director of Public Instruction for the vilayet.

Mr. Boyadjian also reports the arrival of the newly-appointed Inspector of Justice and also of the new Procureur-General.

With the exception of one small district (Gerger), Mr. Boyadjian reports the vilayet to be perfectly quiet.

There is the promise of an excellent harvest, which is fortunate, as business is entirely stagnant.

Mr. Boyadjian reports that in the neighbouring Vilayet of Kharput there is great dissatisfaction felt with the Governor-General, Abdullah Pasha. I have confirmation of this from other sources; the Governor is a very old man, and appears to be entirely in the hands of his brother, who, although, I believe, holding no official position, interferes in all the affairs of the vilayet, and is said to be amassing a large fortune through corrupt practices.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

No. 109.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 452.) *Foreign Office, August 3, 1882.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to the persecution of the Protestants of Erzinghinn by the Gregorian Armenians, reported by Major Everett in his despatch inclosed in your Excellency's No. 563 of the 8th instant, I have to request you to inform that officer that I approve the steps which he took with a view to prevent the repetition of such acts of oppression.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 110.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 670.) *Constantinople, July 30, 1882.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch I have received from Lieutenant Bennet, containing remarks on his recent journey since leaving Adana on the 5th instant.

I would beg to call your Lordship's attention to the improved condition of the country through which Lieutenant Bennet passed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 110.

Lieutenant Bennet to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 12.) *Kaisarieh, July 17, 1882.*

My Lord,

AS I informed your Lordship by telegram, I arrived here on the 5th instant.

My route since leaving Adana on the 8th May has been as follows:—I started east, crossed and recrossed the Giour Dagh, above and below Piyas, and made my way to Marash by the Bagtché Pass. In company with Lieutenant Chermside I then went diagonally across the Taurus in a north-west to Yaryali, six hours south of Evérék, leaving him to proceed to Koniah. I turned due south through the Taurus, again passing high up on the spurs from the Ala Dagh and down through the Karsanti region to the plain near Sis; then, turning north, I came up through the mountains again on the east side of the Samanti to Tomarze. Both these routes were difficult and little used except by the Ashurets on the plain going to their Yaila.

From Tomarza I struck east through the Anti-Taurus to Shahr and the Saris Valley, whence I found an easy arabah-road to Gyuksun and Albistan. From Albistan I crossed the Taurus again to the three lakes, viâ Nurhakh, and up again a little further to the east, and out on to the Vernishehr Surgy plain; thence to Arga, seven hours west of Malatia, and over the Alaja Dagh to the Albistan plain; thence north to near Darendeh, and then west, viâ Khurman Kaleh and the Saris Valley, to Kaisarieh.

I do not propose to weary your Lordship with a detailed account of a long journey undertaken chiefly for topographical information; my time was mostly spent in the mountains, exploring passes, but a few remarks on the political aspect of the country may not be out of place.

Considering that, as is now perfectly well known, corruption is universal in every branch of the public service, from the highest official to the lowest employé, that, therefore, there is no justice and no security, I must admit the state of the country is very satisfactory; all the attendant evils which are to be expected as the result of the official demoralization are to be found, but only in a modified form; the people are discontented, but the discontent of sheep is not a serious thing. I think faith in the benevolent intentions of the Padishah is rather on the increase than the reverse; it is not his fault that the officials are corrupt. The Armenians have lost faith in the English Consuls, and so do not bother one so much with frivolous complaints: "You come round and write the mountains, but do not seem to do us much good," seems now the burthen of

their song. The country may be said to be perfectly quiet; I hear of very few murders of recent date, of hardly any well-authenticated instances of highway robbery, and such a thing as an organized band of robbers or a notorious highwayman seem to have quite disappeared. Everywhere one hears of cattle pilfering; not one village in ten but what one hears of instances, and no doubt exaggeration is the order of the day. I do not suppose the Government is much troubled on this score. I met a man, a Moslem, who with some comrades had had their horses stolen in broad daylight by force near Gorun; he had heard that the robbers, Kurdts, had gone to the Binboa Dagh, and he was trudging after them to try and make satisfactory terms with them to get his animal back; his face plainly expressed astonishment when I asked him whether he had been to the Government. The feeling of insecurity, nevertheless, seems just as strong as ever; there is always the apprehension of danger, which prevents the people moving freely about the country.

The harvest in Adana, Marash, Kaisarieh, and I hear about Yusgat, promises very well. On the Malatia Plain and in the Alaja Dagh where there is no irrigation the crops are almost a total failure; in many instances I found them cutting the corn green to save as hay, but this is not serious, as the people of that region rely more on their flocks than agriculture as a means of existence; grass is also very scarce in that part. I heard of locusts in the eastern portion of the Adana Plain in the mountains above Sis, and near Yaryali on the Evérék Plain, but only small outbreaks, and Abédine and Said Pashas seem to be able to cope with them.

The Zeitounlis by all accounts are going on the same as usual, paying no taxes, but otherwise behaving themselves tolerably well; the Kaïmakam of Zeitoun had been recently changed. The Mutessarif of Marash, Munif Pasha, was about to proceed to Constantinople on leave; he has been there nearly three years, having arrived about the time the Commissioners went up to inquire into the Zeitoun affair; he is replaced, I now learn, by Réchid Pasha, who has been Mutessarif of Kaisarieh for about fourteen months. A more openly corrupt and dishonourable official it would perhaps be hard to find; he has done absolutely no good since he has been here, and has only increased his formerly well-deserved notoriety for corruption, yet such a man is selected for promotion, Marash being, I believe, a first class Mutessariflik. So long as such appointments are made at the Porte, it is impossible to hope for reforms.

My passage down and up through the Taurus was interesting topographically, as I do not think any European has been over the ground before; the Samanti passes down through a tremendous gorge across which there is no getting from half-an-hour below Farash to near its egress from the mountains; so steep is the crack, that in one or two places the sides have fallen in on the river which now passes underneath for a few hundred yards; the country on either side is very mountainous and difficult, not so much from rock as from the steepness of the shale and earth slopes, valleys being frequently 3,000 feet deep; the slopes are scrub covered, and in parts fine pine forests have so far survived destruction.

The Ala Dagh is a magnificent pile of limestone crags and precipices. The inhabitants are Karsantili Turks on the western side, and Farsaks on the east, with a small colony of Karajalar (Turkmen?); land is very scarce, and the population, therefore, sparse; the people are poor and ignorant, and make a living by growing grapes, and in some cases of going away to work during harvest on the plain; the Farsaks live in scattered villages; formerly, probably they lived on the plain, but were driven out by Turkmen and others, and sought refuge in the mountain fastnesses. In summer many of the tribes on the plain come up through this district to their yaila in the northern mountains.

Your Lordship will recollect the deplorable state of affairs I reported in the Alaja Dagh last summer; the feuds between the Kurdts and Turks of Polat, the frequent murders, and the unsettled state of the country generally, owing to the lawlessness of the Kurdts; this year I passed through the Alaja Dagh and found certainly an improvement; the Turks of Polat still complain of insecurity and cattle-stealing, but there have been no more murders; the Government made a slight demonstration against the Kurdts last winter, a few troops to collect arrears and conscripts, this was immediately successful, but no arrests were made; some of the recruits are stated to have died from exposure on the road to head-quarters.

I was surprised to find the Kurdts so civilized; they build decent houses and seem to farm such land as they have well; the Alaja Dagh is a perfectly bare range of mountains with rugged broken tops in the southern and highest portion, which become flat-topped or undulating towards the Tochma Su, broken by deep valleys with rocky crests and ridges. The Kurdts are of the Kurney tribe in south portion of Kurejik, in the northern

the latter being Kizilbash; their numbers are variously stated; I should put them at about 1,500 houses each. A nominal Government is established at Lewent in a very out-of-the-way place, four hours north-west from Arga, and about two hours from the Tochnia. The Kurdts really recognize only their own Beys and Aghas, by whom the taxes are collected or not, feuds exist between the two tribes, and quarrels amongst the Aghas of the same tribe are not uncommon; a few days before my arrival there had been a squable among the Kurneys, a fight ensued, in which two men were killed and several wounded; the Kaimakam and Kurney Bey had gone to try and settle the affair amicably.

On the Albistan side of the Alaja Dagh there are also several Kurdish tribes: Alhazli, about 500 houses; Atmalis, 500; Sinnimenli, 400; Shamsikkenli, 300; and Tapgiranlis; these, with the exception of the Atmalis, are also Kizilbash. All the Kurdts are strongly averse to giving soldiers. The tithes are generally collected in kind by the Government, and very little comes in; the Atmali Bey was arrested last year, I heard, for arrears due by his people; after being kept some time at Albistan, he was sent to Marash, but escaped the first night out and returned to his village. Cattle-stealing amongst each other seems to be very rife; occasional raids are made by a party of one tribe, and perhaps 500 head are carried off; then an attempt is made to get them back, sometimes forcibly, sometimes by words, and perhaps an arrangement is come to by which half are restored; often retaliation ensues on a good opportunity. Compared with their state fifteen or twenty years ago, I have no doubt there has been an immense improvement.

Further west in the Binboa Dagh, east of the Saris Valley, we have a mixture of Kurdts from the above-mentioned tribes who have come in of late years, the bulk being Kotch-Kirlis, from near Zara; here there is a nahié of Kurdts belonging to Azizich, about 350 houses in all, mostly Kizilbash, and a few said to call themselves Protestant.

The Avshars in the Saris Valley and along the Samanli are still much excreised by the settlement of about 500 refugees from the neighbourhood of Kars in their district, and do all they can to prevent any further enermachment; grass land is the great cause of dispute; but there has been no collision so far. The refugees seem to me to be very badly off; the land they have is not sufficient, and many of them are still unsettled.

Between Gyuksun and Albistan there is quite a colony of thriving Circassians, old and new comers: there are ten villages Kabartai, and two or three Tchekhian; the land is good, and it was a treat to see such tidy villages, fenced fields, and good roads. Out of 1,600 houses of the Kabartais, I was informed more than half were slaves. Some of them came to me for advice, and to know if there was any chance of anything being ever done for them; they were evidently afraid to be seen talking, and I had no opportunity of getting much information as to their condition out of them. It seems to me that the abolition of slavery among the Circassians is one of the not least needed reforms in this country, more especially as it will probably take some time to bring about.

I hear that Hydar Pasha is appointed Mutessarif here—a great change for the better, I believe; the Muhasseheji (President of the Criminal Court) and Mudaiomoum are all said to be very dishonest.

The famine in the Bozuk last winter would seem to have been exaggerated; indeed, by all accounts, there does not appear to have been any very exceptional distress.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FERDINAND BENNET.

No. 111.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received September 3.*)

(No. 834.) *Constantinople, August 27, 1882.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copies of despatches addressed by Major Everett to Major Trotter on the subject of the affairs of Erzeroum, and his recent journey to Erzingan.

With reference to Major Everett's suggestion that in availing himself of leave of absence he should, instead of going by Trebizond, proceed by Kars, Tiflis, and Batoum, I have authorized him to do so, but have also requested him not to start until Major Trotter's successor, Her Majesty's Consul in Kurdistan, has been appointed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 111.

Major Everett to Major Trotter.

(No. 15.) *Erzeroum, August 11, 1882.*

Sir,

I BEG to inform you that I arrived at Erzeroum on the 5th instant. During my absence I have visited the districts of Terjan, Erzingan, Kemach, Gurgenis (Rifahieh), Sheyran, and Kelkit, and I also went out of the vilayet as far as Shehban-Karahissar. A Report on these districts will be forwarded as soon as possible.

I cannot give a very satisfactory account of the condition of things here. So soon as the temperature would allow of it, the mountains in the neighbourhood were occupied by a large band of robbers. The first caravan proceeding to Diarbekir from Erzeroum by the summer road across the Palentoken Mountains was plundered by some forty horsemen. Shortly afterwards the contents of a second, coming in the opposite direction, were appropriated by the same band, and a Government official coming up with money from the salt works in Chanons was robbed and wounded. It being evident that so long as these men held the pass it would be impossible to use the road, application was made for assistance by the merchants to the Government. This, however, was not readily given, and, the boldness of the bands increasing, people were attacked, plundered, and in some cases killed, within an hour of the city. At this time the Vali was absent from Erzeroum, and the administration was in the hands of Hashim Effendi, the Mutessarif. He appears to have thought only of putting as much money as possible into his pockets during the absence of his chief, and, in fact, carried his corrupt practices so far as even to shock his not over sensitive colleagues. The Vali, on his return, caused an examination to be made into the conduct of the Mutessarif. It is difficult to say what conclusion was come to, but I am informed that he is to be transferred to Riza, and that Ali Effendi, of Erzeroum, is to be Mutessarif in his place.

During my absence a Military Commission, under the Presidency of Féizi Pasha, has arrived here. The chief objects are the reparation of the fortifications of Erzeroum and an inspection of the frontier with a view to its defence. At present large numbers of barrows and tools are being repaired, and it is said that the work on the fortifications will be commenced immediately after the Bairam. I hear that there may be some little difficulty in obtaining workmen.

In my despatch No. 4 of the 2nd March I mentioned that Krikor Effendi Shabanian had been selected by the Vali to examine into the state of the Bayazid Sandjak. He has since returned, and has declared to me that he has found the conduct of the Mutessarif to have been ten times worse than I had represented it, but he has not yet presented his Report to the Vali. If, when he does so, it be found to be as strong as his declarations to me, then the affair ought to be finally settled, and M. Krikor will have merited the thanks of his countrymen for his disinterested conduct. In the meantime, the Mutessarif remains in Erzeroum on full pay.

The state of the crops is not anything like as good as last year. Throughout the month of June, and up to the middle of July, when rain was most wanted, none fell, and since then the weather has been more or less wet. Many places have been visited by violent storms, which have greatly damaged the crops, while in others they have been entirely destroyed by hail.

The day before yesterday the locusts made their appearance on the northern side of this plain.

The recent action of England in Egypt has caused great dissatisfaction among the Turks of this city, and the bad feeling was aggravated by the articles in the Turkish newspapers, and by rumours which were circulated in Erzeroum by interested parties. Nevertheless, with the exception of an insignificant quarrel between some Turks and Russian Armenians, there were no disorders.

The rapidity with which the forts at Alexandria were destroyed by the British fleet created, I am told, a sense of awe which tended greatly to repress any demonstration from the more fanatic section of the Mahommedan community. Great ill-feeling still exists against us, more especially in military and official circles, but in proportion as the truth becomes better known it will doubtless subside.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 111.

Major Everett to Major Trotter.

(No. 16. Confidential.) *Erzeroum, August* 11, 1882.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you that, in addition to the ordinary information gathered on my recent journey, I have sketched and reported on the whole of the routes over which I travelled, together with many adjacent and connecting roads. Receiving information through Her Majesty's Ambassador that Lieutenant-Colonel Stewart would probably reach Erzingan early in June, I stayed there some time in the hope of meeting him. Enlarging a map of Strecker's, I corrected it and contoured the whole plain and the adjacent mountains to a level above which military movements would be impracticable.

On leaving Erzingan my maps failed me entirely. Strecker's did not reach further west, and Kiepert's became altogether inaccurate. I accordingly, in addition to the ordinary large-scale road sketches, have constructed a map of nearly the whole of the country contained between the Euphrates on the south, Shebban-Karahissar and the Giaour Dagh on the north, the Kizil Dagh on the west, and the Kohanam, Tehardakly, and Tchimen Daghs on the east.

At Shebban-Karahissar a telegram from Erzeroum reached the Mutessarif informing him that an English officer was mapping out the whole of the country, and requesting him to stop his proceedings. As, however, no one said anything to me on the subject, I continued my work. A similar telegram was forwarded to the Kaïmakam of Kolkit Tchiflik, with the same results. As the officials at Shebban-Karahissar were very much averse to the Erzeroum Vice-Consul obtaining any information within a Mutessariflik belonging to Sivas, I abstained from making any demonstrative investigations, in order not to give offence, and confined myself to the inquiries of an ordinary traveller. Some serious occurrences were nevertheless brought to my notice. Here I received the telegrams from Her Majesty's Ambassador informing me of the bombardment of the forts at Alexandria and of the general situation. Probably the officials were equally well informed, but great care seems to have been taken not to communicate the intelligence to the people who, throughout the country, were entirely ignorant of any of the events which had passed in Egypt.

In my despatch No. 15 I have mentioned that on the receipt of the news there was some excitement in this city. The Russian Consul was no doubt thoroughly well informed by telegraph of the state of affairs; yet he appears to have spread reports, such as the rupture of diplomatic relations between England and Turkey, the hoisting of the British flag in Alexandria, &c., which were better calculated to increase bad feeling than to allay excitement. The Armenian Gregorian Bishops seconded his efforts. Of course many other things have been reported to me since my arrival, but absence of proof prevents my mentioning them. I am sufficiently persuaded, however, that each faction has endeavoured to profit by the situation. Excitement has now calmed down considerably, and since my return I have done all in my power to soothe the irritation.

Her Majesty's Ambassador has requested me in his telegram of the 3rd instant to be on the alert with reference to Russian movements beyond the frontier. I have informed his Excellency by telegraph that the Russian frontier posts have been brought up to a strength of 200 men at each, and that the troops furnishing these posts have been advanced nearer the frontier (my informant told me by two hours). What may be going on behind this screen it is difficult to say from this distance, but the result of the numerous inquiries I have made is the belief that at present there is no augmentation of troops at any of the larger garrisons.

In a telegram from Mamakhatun I requested permission from Her Majesty's Ambassador to be allowed, in taking my leave, to proceed on duty to Trebizond viâ the Massat Déré and the Kolat Dagh. I have been authorized by his Excellency to do so, but if it should be considered advisable, I shall be happy to proceed by Kars, Tiflis, and Batoum, in which case I should obtain tolerably exact information, and as I have often talked of making this journey, it will not excite any suspicion. Should this idea meet with the approval of his Excellency, I should be obliged for a telegram to that effect on the receipt of this despatch.

With reference to the Armenian movement I have nothing to add, except that I traced the Russian Armenians mentioned in my despatch No. 13 of the 5th June as far as Erzingan, where they visited the numerous monasteries, distributing at each about 5 T. 5 and a rifle. They also taught some very seditious songs to the children in the schools. Finally, the place became too hot for them, and to escape being arrested they retreated by Baiburt to Trebizond.

The paucity of Armenians in the districts west and north-west of Erzingan would, I think, make that city the natural western boundary of the movement, at least so far as this vilayet is concerned.

About a fortnight before my return two Russians passed through here. They were ostensibly Consular officials proceeding, the one to Aleppo, the other to Diarbekir. I am aware, however, that they have gone to Sivas viâ Erzingan, and they are said to be engineer officers.

The Russian Consul-General has informed me that he intends shortly to make a tour of inspection through the districts of Bayazid, Van, Bitlis, and Mush.

The Armenian Bishop proceeds to Mush next week.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

No. 112.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received September 5.)

(No. 805.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, August* 21, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch I have received from Sir C. Wilson reporting his visit to the district between Nigdeh and the Kizil Irmak.

I have brought the harsh manner in which the taxes are collected, as exemplified by the Christian village of Hassa Keui, to the notice of the Sublime Porte, as well as the ill-treatment of the people by the tax collector of Nigdeh, Murtagi Bey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 112.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 28.)

My Lord, *Kaisariyeh, July* 20, 1882.

ON my journey northwards from Eregli to this place I visited several of the Greek villages situated between Nigdeh and the Kizil Irmak. This district is in some respects one of the most remarkable in Anatolia, and though my visit was hurried, I trust the following remarks may be of interest to your Excellency.

A great part of the district consists of the Budak Ova, a high-lying plain or plateau of soft volcanic rock, covered by a hard crust of varying thickness. On the south the plain is connected with the range of Hassan Dagh, also of volcanic origin, whilst on the north it is broken up by deep, rocky ravines, which run down to the valley of the Kizil Irmak. Almost everywhere rock dwellings, tombs, and churches are to be seen, and afford abundant evidence of the existence of a large Christian population before the Moslem conquest.

The existing villages consist partly of rock-hewn, partly of constructed masonry, houses. In the flanks of the mountains near Nigdeh, and in the ravines which drain to the Kizil Irmak, the dwellings are excavated in the face of the rock, but on the Budak Ova they are wholly subterranean. The plain, over a great part of its extent, is almost a dead level, and the villages are, outwardly, nothing more than collections of mud hovels; each hovel, however, has a subterranean house, excavated in the rock, which possesses an entrance of its own, but is connected with the other underground houses by rock-hewn passages, so arranged as to allow of complete circulation in the subterranean village. The entrance consists of a winding passage, large enough to take a horse, which descends, gradually, until it acquires a roof of rock from 3 to 4 feet thick; at this point the passage is closed by a circular stone, of millstone shape, which is run backwards and forwards at will. In ordinary times, the stone is rolled back into a passage prepared to receive it, and kept in position by a small stone beneath; in time of danger, when the family retires underground, the small stone is removed, and the large circular stone rolls down across the passage into a slot prepared to receive it in the opposite side; it is then wedged from within, and cannot be moved from the outside. The houses are all similar; there is a large chamber for the animals, with mangers and store-rooms for grain and chopped straw;

two or three smaller rooms for the family; a cistern, supplied by rain and snow water; and sometimes a wine-press. When danger threatens the people drive in their live stock, run down their stones, and remain underground until the storm has passed by. The last time they took refuge was during the campaign of Ibrahim Pasha, when the Turkish soldiers committed many irregularities.

The people, who appear to be descended from the old Hellenised Kappadokian peasantry, are quite as interesting as their dwellings, and they no doubt owe to these secure places of refuge the preservation of their religion and language. Several of the villages are entirely Christian, others contain a mixed Christian and Moslem population, whilst others, again, are purely Moslem. In some villages the people speak a barbarous dialect of Greek mixed with Turkish; and occasionally, in mixed villages, Christian and Moslem alike speak Greek. Christians and Moslems appear to be on good terms with each other, but the former are much in advance of the latter in all that relates to material prosperity and education. In one village, Mamasin, there is an ancient church, containing a box of relics which is equally venerated by Christian and Moslem, and the church itself is divided between the members of the two religions.

The villages are known to the Christians by Greek names, which may possibly be those used during the Byzantine period. Thus: Ninizi is Nazianzus; Hassa Keui is Akso; Divein is Trinnia; Turkhan is Trecho, &c. The village lands are all "mulk," or freehold; but they are in great part rocky, and unsuitable to agricultural operations. This has led to a curious system of emigration, and in some cases to an arrangement by which the Moslem, who never moves from home, cultivates the lands of the Christian, who earns his living elsewhere. The young men go to Constantinople for a few years, and then return to marry and build a house. After passing a couple of years at home they return to the capital, leaving their families behind, and remain there from ten to fifteen years, or until they have earned sufficient to support them for the remainder of their lives. Each village has some speciality: one sends "bakals," small storekeepers, another porters, another "raki" or "caviare" sellers, and so forth, to Stamboul; whilst one Moslem village supplies cooks, coachmen, and other servants to the Palace. The men who go to Constantinople appear to bring back considerable sums of money, for at several places, especially at Gelverch, I noticed many new houses, of a substantial character, in course of erection.

The Christians appear to have no political aspirations, such as those which animate the Greeks of Western Anatolia; but they take a keen interest in all that is going on, and the Greek newspapers, of which one is to be found in most of the villages, keep them well acquainted with the course of current events.

The Christian villagers complained much of the harshness with which they were treated by the Turkish officials, especially as regards the assessment and collection of taxes, and of the distinction made between Christian and Moslem in the Law Courts to the prejudice of the former. The last complaint is, I regret to say, only too well founded; but the first is one that is made to me quite as often by Moslem as by Christian peasants.

The present system of tax collection is well exemplified by what occurred at the Christian village of Hassa Keui a few days before my visit. It appears that the verghi, which last year amounted to £T. 370, was this year assessed at £T. 600, a sum far in excess of what the village should pay. On the 12th June the tax-collector from Nigdeh, a certain Murtazi Bey, came to collect the taxes with eighteen attendants, and remained in the village eight days. During this period the villagers were obliged to support him and his companions at a considerable expense. Murtazi Bey carried out his work in the most harsh manner; he forced open doors, broke household utensils, and beat an unfortunate woman, who owed 17 piastres, with a stick. He also kept between eighty and ninety men and women locked up in a stable for three days. I saw myself the broken doors and household utensils. The woman had gone to Nigdeh to complain to the Mutessarif.

I understand that Murtazi Bey, who managed to raise £T. 150 in the village, is looked upon by the Local Government as a very successful collector of taxes; and as long as he brings in money to the chest, I fear no one will inquire very closely how he obtains it.

As the Vali of Konieh proposes to make a tour in the Nigdeh Sandjak this summer, I told the villagers to bring their case to his notice; and I feel sure that his Excellency Said Pasha, from his known attention to such matters, will see that their grievances receive proper redress.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

No. 113.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received September 10.)

(No. 865. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, September 1, 1882.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 834 of the 27th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch addressed by Major Everett to Major Trotter on the subject of military preparations in his district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 113.

Major Everett to Major Trotter.

(No. 17. Confidential.)
Sir, *Erzeroum, August 19, 1882.*

IN my despatch No. 16, Confidential, of the 11th instant, I stated that the inquiries I had made led me to the belief that at present there was no augmentation of troops at any of the larger garrisons in Russian Armenia.

Although, up to the present moment, I have not sufficient reason to contradict or even modify this statement, I would not have it mistaken. Briefly, I am of opinion that if Russia wished to possess herself of the country by a *coup de main*, the ordinary frontier force would be sufficient for the work.

I have no idea what the exact strength on the other side may be; but I suppose it could not be less than two divisions, numbering, even at a peace strength, 15,000 men, exclusive of cavalry and artillery.

By the next mail I shall hope to be able to forward a fairly accurate statement of the number of troops at this moment in the vilayet, and, if possible, at Van, Bitlis, and Mush, but it is very difficult to obtain reliable information. I can inform you, however, that many of the soldiers are raw recruits, ill drilled, ignorant of the use of their weapons, and quite unreliable. I do not believe that the older men would serve very willingly again against Russia. Firstly, their defeat is too fresh in their memories; and secondly, they have been known to say that they were tired of fighting without competent leaders or any recompense for their services.

Notwithstanding the anxiety about a possible occupation by Russia of this country, which, from private letters received here by the last mail, appears to exist at Constantinople, no preparations of any kind have been made at present to meet such a contingency, nor am I aware of any unusual vigilance anywhere.

Of the disaffection of the Armenians you are fully informed. It is possible in any future complications they would take a more prominent part than heretofore.

During my recent journey I have seen a good deal of the Kurds known as Kizilbash. They occupy, so far as this vilayet is concerned, a portion of the district of Terjan and of the Sandjak of Erzingan. In the Dersim Vilayet their numbers are considerable. Their detestation of Turkish rule is quite as great as that of the Christians, and was most openly expressed to me on several occasions when out of hearing of my Turkish escort. Whether they would remain loyal to the Government is very questionable.

I have already reported to you, in my despatch No. 13 of the 5th June, that a Russian officer is said to have passed over from Terjan into their district last winter. It is possible, therefore, that any remaining loyalty has been already tampered with.

It is possible, also, that there may be collusion between the Kizilbash Kurds and the Armenians. You will remember that, in June 1880, I wrote you a despatch in which was set forth the Armenian programme, to be carried out in the event of the failure of the reform scheme. The discovery of the revolutionary papers last spring showed me that a part of this programme was evidently in operation, and during my recent journey I did not forget that portion bearing on a Kurdish co-operation.

At the monastery of St. Gregory, on the Merjan Su, I found a communicative priest, and I made these notes:—

"This monastery has been sacked three times by the Kurds in the last forty years. Now, there is a better understanding between the Kurds and Christians, and sixty Kurdish Aghas have undertaken to protect them. These sixty Kurdish Aghas are Kizilbash of Armenian origin, and they declare that they and their followers would

become Christians to-morrow if they were sure of protection. A school is about to be opened at this monastery for Kurdish and Armenian boys."

I think this information may be fairly relied upon, and it certainly points to a temporary friendship between the two races. I also learnt here, by-the-bye, that three Armenians, residing in the plain of Erzingan, are employed in making rifles and revolvers.

The foregoing observations show you that the internal state of the country is not unfavourable to an enterprise from without, and I believe I am justified in saying that the force at the command of the Government at hand to repel a sudden invasion is both insufficient and deficient in *morale* and training.

I am quite ignorant on what grounds the anxiety at Constantinople is based. Here the idea of an occupation has gained ground in Christian circles principally through travellers reporting great activity beyond the frontier, through the fact that Prince Dondoukoff recently inspected the whole of the frontier during the month of July, and that the inspection is stated to have been in every sense military; and, lastly, through some words dropped by the Russian Consul during the late excitement, when he is reported to have said that the Turks would do much better to pay the indemnity than expend money in the reparation of their fortifications (referring to the Commission lately arrived here—see my despatch No. 15 of the 11th instant), and also that there was no occasion to make a disturbance in order to call in Russian troops, seeing that the opportunity would soon occur of itself. Now these facts, taken by themselves, would not mean much. I have not yet passed a summer here without receiving reports of great military activity over the frontier. The fact of Prince Dondoukoff making a military inspection of the country is in itself not so very alarming, since it may very reasonably be supposed that he would be anxious to inspect personally the various improvements which have been made by the Russians since the war, nor would even the words of the Russian Consul cause me anxiety, since he is well known to be a bitter enemy of Turkey, and to make statements for which there are no grounds. But if, on the other hand, there is real reason for anxiety at Constantinople, then these otherwise unimportant circumstances might prove to be real indications of a coming storm.

If this is the case, I think it is wise that there are no preparations made here for a resistance which would be useless, and it might be well even if the Turkish Military Commission did not push too closely their inspection of the frontier, in order to avoid giving any chance to Russia of construing such an inspection into a menace.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of a telegram from Her Majesty's Ambassador requesting me to telegraph all movements of the 4th Army Corps. At present, as I have already telegraphed, there is no movement to record, nor has any order been received here to mobilize the Redifs. But I take this opportunity of bringing to your notice that an active Military Vice-Consul at Van would be of great assistance in this and in many other matters. It is quite impossible to obtain, at this distance, accurate information as to what is passing at Van, a point which I believe I am right in saying is, so far as Russian movements are concerned, of almost equal importance with Erzeroum. It is also, as I have already informed you, a centre of the Armenian national movement, and possesses a very active, influential, and intelligent Russian representative in Major Kamsaragan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

No. 114.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received September* 18.)

(No. 877.) *Constantinople, September* 10, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, to your Lordship, a copy of an interesting Report I have received from Colonel Stewart on the Vilayet of Dersym.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 114.

Report on the Dersym Vilayet.

THE Dersym Vilayet is that part of Kurdistan inclosed between the lower portion of the eastern and western branches of the Euphrates. To the south and west it is bounded by those rivers. To the north the boundary-line follows the crests of the Muzur Dagh and the Merdjan Dagh. To the east the frontier is not so clearly defined, but, in a general way, it may be said to ascend the left bank of the Tuzla Su, an affluent of the Kara Su or Erzeroum branch of the Euphrates as far as Gülledju, thence it inclines south-west to the Surplus Dagh (Kiepert, Süllüs), thence south to the Peri Su, an affluent of the Murad or Pahu branch of the Euphrates. It follows the right bank of that river (Peri Su) nearly as far as Kurekyan. Crossing the Peri Su a little short of that town it assumes again a more southerly direction, and finally meets the Murad Su at its junction with the Bulanik Su.

General Character of the Country.—The northern division of the vilayet may be said to consist of lofty rugged hills varying from 6,000 to 11,000 and 12,000 feet; small cultivated valleys and narrow deep wooded gorges. To the south the hills are lower and the country more open. The most important rivers are the Muzur Su, with its affluents, and the Peri Su.

The Muzur Su rises at the foot of the Khakhatchur Dagh, to the north of the vilayet, and flows east through the small and comparatively fertile plain of Ovajyk. It then turns south through a succession of narrow rugged and wooded gorges, extending nearly as far as Mazgird. A little south of that town it joins the Peri Su. The Muzur Su, although in summer fordable in many places, and with occasional small rapids, might probably be utilized for navigation.

The Peri Su which, under the name of the Bingöl Su or Kurt Duzi Su, rises far outside the vilayet at the foot of the Chacal Dagh, drains the south-eastern division of the province, and after receiving the Muzur Su joins, the Murad Su. It might also be utilized for navigation.

Climate.—Said to be healthy and conducive to longevity. In the northern districts the winter frequently lasts some six or seven months with an exceedingly heavy snow-fall, although the cold is perhaps not so very intense. To the south the winter is milder, nor does it last so long.

Woods.—Many of the lower hills and gorges are well stocked with timber, the chief varieties being: oak, dwarf oak, chestnut, wild fig, mulberry, walnut, &c. As the population is scanty and turbulent, the forests have so far escaped the destruction they meet with elsewhere.

Mines.—The district is reported very rich in ores, such as lead, iron, copper, silver. There are some coal-mines near Chimushgedzek, which I was unable to visit as the guide failed to appear. The coal is said to be good. Good coal is also found near Kemakh, in the Erzingian Sandjak. Asbestos is said to be found in Keyuchan. Salt, sulphur, and chalybeate springs are numerous. On the whole, it is probable the country would repay examination by a competent authority.

Cultivation.—As may be supposed from the broken and rugged nature of the country, the cultivation in the northern division is very poor and limited. In the southern the reverse obtains. The chief crops are corn, millet, maize, barley. Some tobacco is also cultivated, but only for local consumption. The district round Mazgird, being volcanic, is well adapted for vineyards, and was, I am told, formerly celebrated for its grapes.

Roads, Telegraphs.—As elsewhere the roads are merely tracks.

The following are the principal:—

1. Perteg to Chimushgedzek. With some little labour might be made available for carts. A bridge is also required over the Khozat Su.

2. Perteg, Khozat, Merdjan, Erzingian. Could be easily made available for arabas as far as Khozat. Country beyond very hilly and wooded. Pass over the Merdjan 10,105 feet, with steep ascent and descent. Closed in winter.

3. Erzingian, Pulumor, Kizil-Kilissé, Mezgird. Available for arabas as far as Pulumor. Pass over Merdjan, about 7,000 feet, with easy gradients. Beyond Pulumor the country, although rugged and hilly, presents no very formidable obstacles. Portions of the road said to be closed in winter.

4. Besides the above, there is said to be the remains of an old road and khans leading due south from Pulumor through the Kutté Deressi. This road is now quite impassable, being blocked with huge boulders and overgrown with brush-wood. The

Kurds in the district are also particularly troublesome. Although the most direct line, and tolerably open during the winter, the cost of re-establishing it would prove a serious impediment.

The only telegraph line is from Kharpoot to Khozat.

Trade and Manufactures.—None, beyond the manufacture of carpets and woollen socks, chiefly for home use.

Administrative Divisions.—The vilayet is divided into two sandjaks:—

1. Khozat.
2. Mazgird.

The former is directly under the Vali, residing at Khozat, and the latter under an acting Mutessarif, a rich Kharpoot merchant, residing at Mazgird.

The Khozat Sandjak is again subdivided into four cazas, each under a Kaïmakam:—

1. Chimushgedzek; capital, Chimushgedzek.
2. Char Sandjak; capital, Peri.
3. Ovajyk; capital, Kizek.
4. Khozat; capital, Khozat.

N.B.—There is no Kaïmakam for Khozat. Also included in the Char Sandjak is the Perteg Nahiyé.

The Mazgird Sandjak is divided into four cazas:—

1. Kuzuchan; capital, Pulumor.
2. Pakh; capital, Pakh.
3. Kizil-Kilissé; capital Kizil-Kilissé.
4. Mazgird; capital, Mazgird.

N.B.—No Kaïmakam for Mazgird.

Races and their Distribution.—Three races:—

1. Kizilbash or Alawi Kurds.
2. Armenians.
3. Turks or Osmanlees.

The Kurds are found in the Ovajyk, Khozat, Pakh, Mazgird, Kuzuchan, and Kizil-Kilissé Cazas.

The Armenians and Osmanlees mostly in the Char Sandjak and Chimushgedzek Cazas.

Kurds form the larger portion of the population, and inhabit the cazas above mentioned to the almost total exclusion of the other races. Some large tribes are also to be found in the Char Sandjak near Peri.

Divisions.—The Kurds are again divided into two main sections:—

1. The Dersymlees, inhabiting the country to the east of a line drawn from the Merdjan Dagh along the Makhmuruk Gedik and the Dhar Boghaz.
2. The Sheikh Hassanlees, to the west of this line.

Dersymlees are divided into the following sub-tribes:—

Tribes.	District.	Chiefs.
1. Shadirlee ..	Peri	Hadji Veli Ogtou Muhammad Agha.
2. Isolee	"	Mankirekli Ali Agha.
3. Khranlo	"	Jeffering Ogtou Mehemet Ali Agha.
4. Arelee	Kizil-Kilissé ..	Suleiman Agha.
5. Alanlo	" ..	Murtez Agha.
6. Goreschanle ..	Pakh, Mazgird ..	Shah Hussein and Sheikh Suleiman (latter a prisoner in Sinope).
7. Pilvenkli ..	Khozat	Kenz Ogtou Mustafa and Seyyid Merwanle.
8. Yusufianle ..	Pakh, Mazgird ..	Ashmet Agha.
9. Hemenanle ..	Kizil-Kilissé ..	Hussein Agha.
10. Hyderanle ..	" ..	Ashmet Agha.
11. Jibanle	Pakh, Mazgird ..	Suleiman Agha. (A small tribe; only ten houses.)
12. Mustanle ..	" ..	Hussein Agha.
13. Sheikh Mohamedanle	" ..	Ferat Agha.
14. Kersanle ..	Kizil-Kilissé ..	Veli Agha and Sudyk Agha.
15. Sur Ushage ..	Mazgird	A family of Aghas, consisting of four Chiefs and two subordinate Aghas, and no common Kurds. One of the chief Aghas is a prisoner in Sinope.

Of these tribes, in point of numbers, the most important are:—

1. Isolee.
2. Khranlo.

3. Shadirlee.
4. Pilvenkli.
5. Goreschanle.

It is, however, but fair to state that, by some authorities, the Isolee, Khranlo, and Shadirlee are not held to be true Dersymlees.

The Sur Ushage tribe, formerly of great importance from having been the real rulers of the Dersym, have of late, owing to the Osmanli advance, lost most of their power and influence. They are of Turkish descent, but are virtually one with the Kurds, in dress, language, and religion.

As usual, the four Chiefs are all bitter enemies, and some assisted while others opposed the Osmanlis.

Sheikh Hassanlees are divided into two sections:—

1. Sheikh Hassanlees.
2. Seydanlees.

These tribes are descended from the sons of Sur Ashmet Dedé, Sheikhs Hassa and Seydan, who quarrelled and fought.

Sheikh Hassanlee Section:—

Tribes.	District.	Chiefs.
1. Kara Balli ..	Khozat	Gango Oglou Yusuff Agha.
2. Ferat Ushage ..	"	Suleiman Agha.
3. Abbas Ushage ..	Ovajyk, Khozat ..	Seyyid Ibrahim and Zenoung Oglou Mehemet Agha.
4. Kirganle	Khozat	Shut Oglou Ali Agha.
5. Bal Ushage ..	"	Muzur Agha.
6. Randalle	"	Hussein Agha.

Seydanlee Section:—

Tribes.	District.	Chiefs.
1. Shaw Ushage ..	Ovajyk	Kekonung Oglou Suleiman Chouch.
2. Khoja Ushage ..	Khozat	Mustafa Agha.
3. Latchin Ushage ..	"	Bassein Oglou Kurcman.
4. Pez Ginour and 5. Topuz Ushage ..	Ovajyk	(Seyyid Ali, son of Topuz Agha. Topuz Agha a prisoner in Sinope.
6. Maksood Ushage and 7. Beyt Ushage ..	"	Pir Sultan and Mesonung Oglou Husein Agha.
8. Kallanle, subdivided into three tribes	"	Seyyid Mohamed.
9. Ashuranle ..	"	Ibrahim Agha.

In point of numbers, the most important of these tribes are:—

1. Abbas Ushage.
2. Kara Balli.
3. Bal Ushage.
4. Kallanle.

The Ferat Ushage consists of forty families, all Aghas, of Kurdish descent. In former years their position among the Sheikh Hassanlees corresponded very much with that of the Sur Ushage among the Dersymlees.

The following tribes are by some held to be independent, and by others included among the Dersymlees or Sheikh Hassanlees.

1. Baktiyari; Chief, Hussein Agha. A small Kurdish Alawi tribe, living at Toroot, in the Khozat Caza.

2. Charykyanli; Chief, Hussein Beg. A powerful Kurdish Alawi tribe, said to number from 1,500 to 2,000 guns, and residing in the Kuzuchan Caza. It is reported that they have from seventy to eighty Aghas, who, between them, own most of the Caza.

The following are perfectly distinct tribes:—

1. The Kara Chor, a Turkish tribe of some twenty-four families, all related; all Aghas and strict Sunnees. Their Chiefs are Izuk Beg and his cousin Osman Beg. They are all wealthy and reside in the Char Sandjak, of which they own the greater part.

2. Balabanli, a powerful Kurdish tribe, living in the Terdjan district. Some 200 houses are, however, settled in Kuzuchan.

The above list includes all the best known tribes, but it is very probable there are some smaller ones whose names I have not heard. I am inclined to think that among the tribes there is a constant tendency to subdivide, and for the following reasons:—

1. It is the custom for sons on marriage to leave the paternal home.

2. The frequency of family quarrels separating brothers.

It thus happens that when a Chief has several sons, the tribe very frequently gets broken up, as evidenced by the Sheikh Hassanlees, who, after the death of Sur Achmet Dedé, broke up into two sections at feud with each other. I also hear that since the Osmanlees have made themselves more or less masters of the country, the tribal *esprit de corps*, if I may so call it, has somewhat diminished, and that there is a slight tendency to break up. This is probably due to the diminished power and influence of the Aghas, and to the way in which the sub-tribes are frequently intermixed in the same district.

Numbers.—It is difficult, if not impossible, to arrive at any satisfactory opinion on this subject. Authorities all differ, some estimating say, for instance, the Charykanle at 1,000 fighting men, while others put them down at 2,000. The Chiefs either have no idea of their numbers, or else for various reasons deliberately mislead one. Perhaps the fairest estimate is from 50,000 to 60,000 souls, exclusive of the Char Sandjak and Chimushgedzek. This number agrees at any rate with the estimate of fighting men given me by some Chiefs. They put their numbers down at 10,000 guns.

Different classes of Kurds.—Besides being divided into tribes, the Kurds are also divided into three classes:—

1. Aghas or Chiefs.
2. Seyyids or Priests.
3. Common Kurds.

In theory the Seyyid is supposed to rank above the Agha, but practically the relative rank of each individual depends chiefly on his power, wealth, and influence. As regards Aghas, one is to be found in every village, no matter how small it is.

Origin, Language, Appearance, &c.—The Dersymlees Kurds have apparently no traditions. As to their origin: in reply to any question on the subject they say they do not know where they came from, and that they have been living in their present villages as long as they can remember. Mr. Taylor thinks them descendants of Pagan Armenians, on the ground that Armenian names and words are found among them. How far this theory is true it is impossible to say; the Armenians themselves think these words and names are rather due to Armenians who have turned Kurds, or belong to villages originally Armenian. Many other fanciful theories have been started, amongst others that they are descendants of the Medes, the lost tribes, &c. Be their origin what it may they are now at any rate Kurds in religion, language, &c., and have probably inhabited the Dersym as long, if not longer, than the Armenians.

Shiek Hassanlees.—They say that they are originally from Khorassan, whence they were driven after the murder of Hussein. From Khorassan they emigrated to the Akja Dagh, near Malatia, and have since been pushed north by the pressure of population.

Language.—Zazan is the language in general use. It differs somewhat from the Kermanj spoken by the Kurds further east, and is said to have a considerable mixture of Persian. Many speak Turkish.

Appearance.—The men of both races are tall, spare, and hardy, and said to be capable of great endurance. Of the two the Dersymlees are the tallest and finest. If generally of a dark complexion, still light hair and eyes are to be met with.

Religion.—The religion of both Hassanlees and Dersymlees is the same. It is generally considered to be a mixture of Paganism, Mahommedanism, and Christianity. Although they recognize Mahomet as their Prophet, their chief love and devotion is for Ali, and, like the Shieks, they look on the intermediate Khalifs in the light of interlopers. They say that Moses, Jesus, Mahomet, and Ali are all incarnations of God. I could not distinctly make out whether they hold the doctrine of the Imamat, but it is very probable they may. They have a kind of communion, but not of necessity of bread and wine, and to which only the initiated are admitted. They have also a superstitious reverence for Christian churches, shrines, and natural objects such as springs, big trees, mountain tops. There is a story that one of them declined to enter the Turkish bath at Kizil-Kilissé because it was built out of the ruins of a Christian church. Among the springs, those from whence the Muzur Su takes its rise are held to be very sacred, and a pilgrimage to them is considered very efficacious for the cure of diseases.

This opinion is also shared by the neighbouring Osmanlees and Armenians. Similarly, many of the Armenian shrines are held in high esteem, such as the one at Halooré, about which a Chief asked me whether I did not consider it very potent for the cure of diseases. In the same way with mountain tops, many are held sacred, and pilgrimages and sacrifices are made to them. I find many Armenians hold the same or similar superstitions. All practice circumcision.

Their priests are called Seyyids, and form a caste apart, the dignity being hereditary. They are divided into the following tribes or clans:—

1. Aghuchanle, found mostly in the Khozat Caza; a numerous clan, and held in high esteem by all the tribes.
2. Sare Salliekli, found in the Khozat Caza; highly esteemed by all the Seydanlo tribes.
3. Baba Mansurli, found in the Peri district; highly esteemed by all the Dersymlee tribes.
4. Dervish Jemal, found in Khozat and Ovajyk; highly esteemed by the Sheik Hassanlees and Seydanlees.
5. Urian Kidirli, found in the Ovajyk district; held in high esteem by the Pez Giaour tribe.
6. Kidr Abdalle, found in the Ovajyk district; highly esteemed by all the Ovajyk tribes.
7. Millanle, found in the Dersym; highly esteemed by all the tribes.
8. Seyyid Kizale, found in the Ovajyk district; highly esteemed by all the tribes.
9. Sur Achemet Dedele, found in the Ovajyk district; highly esteemed by all the tribes.
10. Sheikh Delile Berkhé Janle, found in the Mazgird and Char Sandjak; highly esteemed by the Pilvenkli tribe.
11. Sheikh Cholanle, found in the Mazgird district; highly esteemed by the Pilvenkli tribe.

Some of these clans or tribes are numerous, such as the Aghuchanle, Dervish Jemal, Baba Mansurli. The Dervish Jemal are said to number 500 families. Various curious reasons are given why one class should be more highly considered than another. For instance, the Baba Mansurli Seyyids are highly thought of, because their founder is believed to have caused a wall to move, and ridden on it; so with the Dervish Gemal, whose founder is supposed to have ridden on a bear. The founder of another clan is said to have taken poison without being affected, &c.

In theory, the Seyyids are all supposed to be men of peace, and not to frequent the society of murderers and robbers. They are neither to touch or carry arms. Murderers and robbers they are to put under a ban, or excommunicate. They are also directed to go about among the people, to inculcate lessons of morality, and vouchsafe their blessing to the meritorious. I hear it is quite common among them the practice of chanting their homilies to the sound of a small guitar. In practice, however, it is probable that the vast majority fall far short of this standard, nor would I wish it for a moment to be supposed that all Seyyids of necessity take an active part in preaching and teaching. I am also told that many Seyyids have Firmans from former Sultans, testifying that their forefathers were good and pious men.

Mr. Taylor states that Dedés differ from Seyyids in being elected from among the most worthy, and that they do not die, but are received in some mysterious way into Heaven. From inquiries I am inclined to think that Dedés and Seyyids are synonymous terms. Perhaps a Seyyid, when very old, may sometimes be called a Dedé, but no supernatural attributes are attached to the name.

Character of the People.—Like every other nationality, they have their good and bad points. They are hospitable, firm in their friendships, and have the same law as the Bedouin, that an enemy taking refuge in their house is for the time sacred. In manner they are free, independent, and manly, with but little idea of obedience, except within certain limits, towards their Chiefs. Although inveterate robbers, they acknowledge that robbery is disgraceful. They place but little value on human life, and quarrels ending in bloodshed are of constant occurrence. There is hardly a Kurd so poor who cannot boast of an enemy, and blood feuds, separating families and tribes for years, if not centuries, are quite common. All strangers who have for any time lived among them agree that they are by no means wanting in intelligence. Reading and writing are almost quite unknown, nor have any of them shown any desire for education. Their usual remark is, that if education is to make them like the Osmanli, they would sooner be without it. As a warlike and courageous race, their chief desire

is the possession of a good gun, and to see some fighting. Beyond this taste for fighting, and a wish to be the owner of a patch of ground and some goats or sheep, the Kurd would appear as yet to have no great ambition. Like many of his neighbours, he is also indolent, fond of gossip, and nothing causes more astonishment than the rapidity with which news spreads amongst them.

Habits and Customs.—One of the most striking peculiarities of the Kurd, and one which will probably greatly influence his future prospects, is the extreme tenacity with which he clings to his land. Given a Kurd, possessor of a patch of ground, and I am assured nothing will induce him to part with it, and that if he were to do so, he would be considered disgraced by his neighbours. Another characteristic is his propensity to stay at home. Unless forced, he shows no desire to wander away from his native mountains. In person he is dirty, and has no desire to become acquainted with water. For some reason or other, hares would appear to be a forbidden meat (I have sometimes also noticed this among the Osmanlees). Few have more than one wife, nor are any allowed more than three. Women do a good deal of the field work, tending the flocks, milking, and assisting at the harvest. On the other hand, compared with many of their neighbours, they are free, go about unveiled, and cannot be divorced. Marriages are sometimes carried out by private arrangement; but sometimes the willing bride is carried off, peace being subsequently made through a Seyyid. It is also customary for the father of the bride to receive a certain sum, in return for which he is supposed to find his daughter's trousseau. At funerals it is usual to give a public feast for the repose of the soul of the departed; women are also called in to weep and lament very much in the style of an Irish wake. The Ramazan fast is not kept; but, on the other hand, a fast of thirteen days is kept during the Moharrem. Tombstones are often in the shape of a rudely-carved horse, to show that the deceased was a man of valour; frequently, also, swords and guns are carved on the stone. In the same way a maiden's hair is sometimes hung on her grave.

With young men it is customary to wear the back hair long, and the front hair short. Old men shave the head. Women wear their hair in long tresses. All wear a low white cap made of wool, and around which a number of coloured handkerchiefs are rolled. Wealthy Kurdish women wear strings of gold or silver coins, much like the Yuruks. All are fond of music, and they have many songs of love and war.

General Condition. Villages.—Except the Chiefs, the mass of the people are miserably poor, and nowhere have I seen so many clothed in rags or so many naked children. In reply to my question I was told that these children spend their winter in the stables of the wealthy. Most of the families are large, and the population would seem to be increasing. Sour curds ("yaourt"), butter-milk ("eiren"), cheese, and goat's flesh form the staple food, together with a species of herb which is mixed with salt, boiled in water, and forms amongst the poorest a frequent substitute for bread.

The villages are usually small—seldom more than three or four houses—and owing to the broken and rocky nature of the country the fields are few and small. Latterly the people are taking more to agriculture, which would argue that the population is on the increase. The winter is generally spent in villages, while in summer most of the peasantry go to Yailas, or mountain grazing grounds.

Tribal Politics.—As already mentioned these Kurds, having but little to occupy their time, turn their attention, when not fighting the Government, to internecine quarrels with the natural result that both tribes and individuals are well supplied with enemies. This fact was brought very forcibly to my notice on several occasions, but notably so on a journey between Mazgird and Haloré, where at each village on the road I was obliged to take a fresh guide, the men stating that they were afraid to go on as their village was at feud with the next. So with individuals, and notably Aghas, who have constantly for this reason to keep a night guard round their houses. Most of these enmities are due to quarrels about land, as, for instance, the row now going on between the Hassanlees and the Charykyanlees for the possession of Eshkirik. In the midst of these constantly shifting enmities and friendships there are, however, one or two points which stand out tolerably clear, and of which one is the old standing feud between the Dersymlees and the Sheikh Hassanlees, and the other the feud between the Sheikh Hassanlees and the Seydanlees. The latter two may sometimes unite to attack the former, while the former is always only too ready to have a go at the latter. As may be imagined cattle lifting, robbery, and bloodshed are of constant occurrence along the border line.

Weapons.—All are armed with rifled matchlocks and swords. It is also currently reported that a good many Henry-Martinis, purchased from the soldiers for a mere trifle or a few okes of tobacco, have found their way into the hands of the tribes; also

that they are able to make use of the old cartridges, and can make clay-moulds for casting bullets. How far these statements are correct I was unable to verify.

Feeling towards the Government. Grievances.—It would be difficult to decide which of the two subject races, the Armenian or the Kizzilbash Kurd, hate the Osmanlee and his Government the most. The Kurds openly say that the whole race is vile and corrupt, and when I ventured to remark that the Turkish peasant appeared harmless and peaceable, they replied that they did not agree with me. As for their grievances they complain of the disdain with which they are treated, saying, "The Osmanlees wish to make us out Mahommedans and co-religionists, while at the same time they insult us by calling us Kizzilbash."

A more material grievance is the severity of the taxation, such as the "aquam paressi," 3½ piastres per sheep and goat, and also the little return they get in the shape of increased security. In short, they are very much dissatisfied and longing to be released from the Turkish yoke. As an illustration of their hatred, I am told they refuse to give their daughters to an Osmanlee.

I have frequently been asked whether there was any probability of a change, to which I invariably replied that the matter was in the hand of God; that either the Government would improve, in which case it would last; or that it would continue its downward course and eventually disappear.

State of Subjection.—For the time being the larger part of the country is pretty quiet, although I hear that in this respect perhaps matters are not quite so satisfactory as they were last year. The western half of the vilayet is the most settled; the eastern district, or the true Dersym, having still some districts where an Osmanlee tax-gatherer dare not put in an appearance, such as the country between Mazgird and Haloré and the Kattè Diressi to the east of Dudjik Baba Dagh, &c. In this latter very inaccessible district are the villages of Zagi, twenty-five houses; Jkdzor, forty houses; and Akhbadzor, twenty houses, who utterly refuse to recognize the Government and pay no taxes whatever. With the exception of Keyuchar, Chae Sandjak, and Chimashgedzek Cazas, none of the cazas supply any recruits, and it is more than probable were the Government to enforce recruiting the whole country would be up in arms.

Chief Notable. Confidential.—Among the Aghas or Chiefs by far the most influential is Shah Husseinzade Hussein Beg. This Chief, of pure Kurdish descent, is Kaimakam of the large Caza of Kuzuchan, and has lately turned Sunnee. He is head of the powerful Charykyanlee tribe, and, although of a silent, perhaps reserved, disposition, is adored by his own people, besides exerting a very commanding influence over the rest of the Dersym. He is wealthy, courteous, generous, and of boundless hospitality, and nothing is more astonishing than the crowds that every evening flock to his table except the unlimited patience with which he listens to all complaints. If not particularly intellectual, he is shrewd, and for a quiet uneducated man wonderfully liberal-minded and ready to adopt any improvement. I had the pleasure of making his acquaintance at Pulumor, his official residence, and subsequently visited his private house, than which I have seen none better appointed in Turkey. Besides being Chief of his tribe, he claims great authority as possessor of the second coat of Ali. Although a Turkish official and orthodox Mahommedan, I am satisfied from what I hear that he secretly hates and despises the whole set of Valis, Pashas, &c., and that he is tired of satisfying the constant money calls that are being made upon him. But, as he himself says, "What is the use of my revolting? I cannot possibly succeed, and the only result will be mine and my people's ruin."

Yusuff Agha.—Another influential Chief is Ganghanung Oglou Yusuff Agha. This Chief resides at Aghzomik, near Khozat, and is head of the Kara Balle tribe. He is perhaps a cleverer man than Hussein Beg, and has managed to make himself generally acceptable to both Osmanlees and Kurds, the latter of whom say that he is their Bismarck. He is said to be over 100, and is an active member of the Idaré Medjliss.

Seyyid Ibrahim.—This Chief is head of the Abbas Ushage, and in appearance is a fine commanding looking man. Although not a very high Seyyid, he exerts a very considerable influence, as he is determined, plucky, and pushing. He has lately quarrelled with the Government, and refuses to sit in the Idaré Medjliss. I called on him at his residence, when he informed me that the reason of his quarrel was that he considered Izaak Beg, Yusuff Agha, and some others, as unfit, from their conduct and venality, to sit on the Medjliss. He asked, "Who is the rebel, he who wishes the laws to be carried out or he who does not?" He praised the present Vali, but said he was overridden by his Council.

Izaak Beg.—This Notable, although a Sunni and a Turk, I have included among the other Chiefs, as he is very influential, wealthy, a member of the Idaré Medjliss, and a good deal mixed up with Kurdish affairs. His tribe is small, only consisting of some twenty-four Aghas, all wealthy, and of more or less importance. He resides at Pasharaukh, a village in the Char Sandjak, and is commonly considered the king of that district. According to common report he is cruel, unscrupulous, and venal, besides being an enemy of the Kurds and Armenians. He owns a large portion of the Char Sandjak, and tyrannizes over his peasantry, who are mostly Armenians.

In times gone by it was his practice to subsidize some of the powerful Dersymlee tribes to make war upon his enemies. In short, he is a Deré Bey of the very worst type, and is universally execrated and feared.

Ottoman Policy and its chances of Success.—A year or so ago it was decided to form a vilayet out of the Dersym, and Fikri Pasha, a Kurd who had been brought up at Constantinople, was appointed Vali. So far his policy has been to pacify and try to win over the Kurds to the orthodox faith by treating them with consideration and kindness. The time during which this policy has been in force is still too short to enable one to form an opinion how far he may succeed, but the chances would seem to be rather against him. Like other Valis, he has to contend with the centralizing influence and *vis inertiæ* of Constantinople, with the great corruption of his employés, the fanaticism and boundless religious pride of the orthodox, and the absence of any continuous policy at head-quarters. Supposing also that he should get over most of these difficulties, the chances are that he will be dismissed in a few months and succeeded by some Pasha with totally different views, when any good he may have done will be destroyed.

So far the Dersym Kurds appear to have successfully resisted both the blandishments and the rigour of the Government. Pashas have succeeded Pashas, troops have marched and counter-marched; reports, such as that of Dervish Pasha, in which he describes the peace of the country as such that the wolf and the lamb would lie down together, have been written—all without any great result. As soon as the pressure of the troops is removed the country lapses again into its disturbed state.

Judicial System.—Although a vilayet, the caza judicial system is everywhere in force, and seems to answer well enough. At each cassaba there is a Cadi, who sits as President of the Bedayet Court. Mudai Umums, Adliyé Mufettishes, &c., have not yet been appointed, nor are they by any means wanted.

Garrison.—Consists of seven battalions of about 350 men each, distributed as follows:—

Two battalions] at Khozat; three battalions at Kizzil-Kilissé; one battalion at Pakh; one battalion at Mazgird.

There are also a few mountain guns at each of those places.

Revenues.—The annual revenue, inclusive of arrears, is estimated at 36 yuks of piastres (one yuk = 100,000). The expenditure is, I believe, considerably in excess. The taxes come in but slowly and irregularly, and the arrears are from 5 to 6 yuks a-year. The best paying cazas are those of Chimushgedzek and Char Sandjak. Some ten years ago the accumulation of arrears was so large, and the chances of their being paid so small, that Government made a virtue of necessity, and remitted the amount. Since that date they have again commenced to accumulate till they are now from 50 to 60 yuks.

It would appear to be the system to debit each village with its taxes, although it may be a matter of common notoriety that the village never has paid and never will pay.

Feeling towards the Armenians.—The feeling towards the Armenians is friendly, and Armenians can travel in districts where no Osmanli dare show himself. One reason for this is the sympathy born from the hatred both have towards the Osmanli; another is that the Armenian generally officiates as the Kurd's man of business, buys his produce, sells him what he wants, and, on the whole, treats him with tolerable justice. At the same time there can be but little doubt that were the Osmanli yoke removed the two races would not long agree, and that the Armenian, as the weaker and the less warlike, would go to the wall.

Armenian and Kurdish Land Question.—There is but little to be said on this question, as the matter is practically solved by the disappearance of the Armenians. Except the two southern cazas, the whole country is now Kurdish, and whatever claims the Armenians may have once had, I doubt if any Government could ever again reopen the question. It is quite extraordinary how totally the Armenians have disappeared. Villages and districts formerly Armenian, as proved by the name and the ruined churches, are now wholly inhabited by Kurds. To account for this several reasons are given, such as (1) want of protection; (2) migratory tendency of the Armenians.

It is chiefly due to these causes that many an Armenian has turned Kurd, and enrolled himself in some tribe, while others have wandered off to neighbouring cities either to escape oppression or with a view to bettering their condition. Perhaps also another reason may be the probable more rapid increase of population among the Kurds.

Land Question in the Char Sandjak and Chimushgedzek Caza.—In these cazas a land question has been going on for many years between the Armenian Rayahs and the Turkish Aghas, such as Izaak Beg, Osman Beg, and others. By common report these Aghas came into the country some 200 or 300 years ago, and have gradually, and apparently without any legal right, possessed themselves of most of the land held by the Armenians, along with their vineyards and houses. Several Commissions have sat to inquire into this question, but always, just as a decision or compromise was being come to, the matter has, in a mysterious way, been allowed to drop. I need hardly point out that a settlement of some kind is most urgently wanted, and also that the power and influence of these Aghas should be curbed.

Feeling towards England.—So far as I can judge, these Kurds are very friendly-disposed towards England. Some of them, indeed, went so far as to tell me that they were most desirous for us to take over the country. Their only dread appeared to be that in any future settlement they would be dispossessed of their land in favour of the Armenians, towards whom they appeared to think we were very favourably inclined.

Remarks.—The impressions I have carried away after my recent journey among these Kurds are:—

1. That neither of the subject-races, Armenian or Kurdish, are either sufficiently advanced or sufficiently numerous to have any claim to govern.

2. That the Kurds, if fairly, firmly, and justly treated, would before very long settle down.

3. That the idea of an independent Armenia or Kurdistan is quite impracticable.

4. That the Armenian forms but a part, and that perhaps the smaller part, of the general question.

The Armenians have, by means of their General Assembly, Bishops, and newspapers, pushed themselves and their (in many cases) just grievances to the front, and perhaps secured an undue share of attention.

There can, however, be no doubt that no settlement will be satisfactory that does not take the Kurds and the Mahommedans into consideration.

Indeed, of the two races, Armenian and Kurd, I am not by any means sure if the future does not belong to the latter, who, with all his faults, is the most numerous, manly, and independent.

(Signed) D. H. STEWART,
Lieutenant-Colonel, 11th Hussars.

Kurpoot, August 22 1882.

No. 115.

Major Everett to Major Trotter.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, September 18.*)

(No. 18.)
Sir,

Erzeroum, August 25, 1882.

ON the 21st August I telegraphed to Her Majesty's Ambassador that there had been a quarrel between Turks and Armenians at Van, and that many rumours were current on the subject. Yesterday I telegraphed again, informing his Excellency that it was not possible at present to get accurate information about the disturbance which some say was between Kurds and Christians, others between Kurds and Persians; also, that it was generally believed that Sheikh Obeidullah was once more in Hakkiari, that three battalions of infantry and two batteries of mountain artillery had left Erzeroum for Van, and that other troops were reported to be moving there from Erzingan and Kharput.

I have very little to add to these telegrams. Colonel Donnet, the Russian Consul-General, has promised to give me full information so soon as he receives it himself; but he is awaiting an answer to a telegram on this subject which he has dispatched to Major Kamsaragan, the Russian Vice-Consul at Van. If it be true that Sheikh Obeidullah has reappeared upon the scene, it is probable that the affair is grave, and

will prove still more so. I have been assured on very good authority that, on this point, there is not the least doubt. Once again I have to regret that we have no Representative at Van.

A week ago some zaptiehs, under the command of a Major, were bringing up six Kurdish prisoners from Bayazid to Erzeroum. On their reaching the Nebi Tchai (a small stream on the eastern side of the Devehoyun Pass, about two hours from Erzeroum), they were met by thirty Kurdish horsemen from the Talentoken Mountains, who attacked the escort, killed six of their horses, and rescued four of the prisoners. The Kurds then marched down the plain of the Tassin, plundered the Armenian village of Konudsor, and afterwards retired into the mountains between that plain and Alashgert, where they were joined by other brigands to the number of 100. They are now reported to be surrounded by about 400 people, composed of zaptiehs and inhabitants.

It is unnecessary for me to comment on the growing boldness of these brigands. Those who attacked the escort on the Nebi Tchai are doubtless the same who robbed the caravans in the early part of the summer (see my despatch No. 15, Political, of the 11th August, 1882), and against whom the Government took no repressive measures worthy of the name.

The bitter feeling against Christians in general, and the English in particular, does not abate in Erzeroum. I find that, with hardly an exception, the popular feeling is with Arabi Pasha, who is declared to be the defender of Islam and a patriot, compared by some to the late Garibaldi. It is not believed here that the Sultan will send troops to Egypt; and there is no doubt that, if he does do so, the action will be very unpopular.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

No. 116.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received September 24.)

(No. 906.)
My Lord,

Constantinople, September 14, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch addressed by Major Everett to Major Trotter, containing an account of Sheikh Obeydullah's movements since his return to Erzeroum, and reporting on the present state of affairs in the vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 116.

Major Everett to Major Trotter.

(No. 20.)
Sir,

Erzeroum, September 2, 1882.

SINCE the news of Sheikh Obeydullah's escape from Constantinople has been confirmed by a telegram from Her Majesty's Ambassador, it only remains for me to report the manner of his arrival here. The Sheikh came into the country by Poti and Tiflis. He crossed the frontier from Igdyr on the 13th ultimo (dressed in European clothes and accompanied by a Cossack and a Russian Armenian), and made for the Monastery of Utchkilissa, where he passed the night. The next day he visited Navyk, a village in the Kara-Kilissa district, and the residence of a certain Sheikh Khalifa, and he exhorted the Sheikh to give every protection to the Christians. He then passed on to the Kurdish village of Mamoetan, close to Toprak-Kaleh. From here he sent out news of his arrival in the country, and immediately 500 horsemen from the various Kurdish tribes in the neighbourhood assembled to escort him into Hakkiari. The next day he went away towards Patnotz, and for the moment I cannot trace him further.

Nothing certain is known as yet with reference to the disturbance at Van, so at present I prefer to remain silent rather than to regale you with rumours which it might be necessary afterwards to contradict.

In the meantime, all the available troops are concentrating in that neighbourhood for the purpose of repressing any outbreak, and I am given to understand that several additional battalions have been ordered up from Baghdad. Very few troops now remain here, and the garrison at Erzingan is almost empty.

I regret to say a telegram, sent to the Vali, with a copy for Mr. Cole, the principal American missionary at Erzeroum, arrived here yesterday afternoon from their Armenian Protestant pastor at Erzingan, reporting that on the night of the 31st ultimo 100 Gregorian Armenians attacked the new Mission-house at Erzingan, destroying entirely the garden wall. The telegram further states that the pastor, who resides in the house with his wife and children, is afraid for his life.

The Americans came to me for advice, and I have desired them for the present merely to telegraph to their man at Erzingan to let them know what the Local Government is doing in the matter, and in the meanwhile to cause their agent here to represent the case to the Vali. The Mutessarif of Erzingan will probably have already arrested the principal offenders. I think it would also be well if the Armenian Patriarch, without loss of time, intimated to the Gregorians of Erzingan his strong disapproval of such conduct. Next week Mr. Cole, with his family and a lady teacher, are about to proceed to Erzingan to take up their residence in the new Mission-house for the winter, and unless some immediate steps are taken to insure peace, it is not improbable that there may be a repetition of the disgraceful outrages which were committed many years ago at Erzeroum when the Mission was first started.

The Yezidis of Aintab, numbering 300 houses, lately sold all their property to refugees coming from Russia, with the intention of emigrating themselves into that country. They have since applied to the Vali for permission to move, but this has been refused. It is possible that this refusal on the part of the Government may be merely a pretext for obtaining money, but in the meanwhile the Yezidis find themselves in a very awkward position, being encamped in tents, and unable to move either back or forwards. It appears that arrangements have already been concluded between their Chiefs and the Russian authorities.

In my despatch No. 11 of the 22nd May, I informed you that a line of telegraph was about to be laid down between Stassankaleh and Bayazid. One plant was collected at Hassankaleh for this purpose, and there it still remains for want of funds. For the same reason the intended separation of the fortifications of this city is still delayed. The members of the Frontier Committee, who started last week for Bayazid, have turned down towards Van. Moussa Pasha, the Commandant of this place, has also left for the same district.

The brigands, who were reported (in my despatch No. 18 of the 20th August) to be surrounded in the mountains between Alashgerd and Passin, have succeeded in escaping, and the leader, Haranli Ibo, together with a portion of the band, is again in the Passin district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

No. 117.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received September 24.)

(No. 920.)
My Lord,

Constantinople, September 17, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch I have received from Lieutenant Bennet, informing me that he is about to leave for Egypt, as well as with regard to military and other matters.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 117.

Lieutenant Bennet to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 18.)
My Lord,

Mersina, September 2, 1882.

HAVING received your Lordship's telegram informing me that my leave had been granted, and that I might leave the country when I pleased, I have the honour

to inform you that I start by the French steamer on Monday, the 4th instant, for Alexandria.

The best effect has been produced in this vilayet by your Lordship's telegrams, giving reliable information as to what has been happening in Egypt. On my arrival from the interior I found the wildest rumours, generally damaging to the English, had been flying about. The Moslem officials were undoubtedly on the side of Arabi, though in conversation with me this was never allowed to be the case. The villagers are uninterested, and there are only a few fanatical Moslems from Syria in the three towns, who occasionally indulge in language sufficiently significant to make the Christians uneasy.

On receipt of the telegrams announcing British successes, the Turks became lukewarm in their interest, and viewing Arabi's situation as hopeless are inclined to throw him over, and the Christians have become happier in their minds.

Abédine Pasha has sent for the regiment from Féké, a place in the mountains, four days north of Adana, to have them at hand in case of necessity, but at present there is no cause for anxiety.

Your Lordship is, no doubt, aware that the export of cattle, horses, grain, &c., to Egypt, has been prohibited.

I am glad, before leaving the country, to have experienced a few days of the greatest heat of summer on the Adana Plain. Among Europeans, and even among the Turks, Adana bears a very bad reputation, on account of its unhealthiness during June, July, and August, but this would appear to be quite undeserved; it is true that this summer has not been unusually hot, neither has it been unusually cool; the temperature varies from about 75° in the early morning to 96° or 97° in the hottest part of the day. Considering the life the natives lead, lying about without covering, and exposed to the night dews, eating scarcely anything but bread and fruit—the latter frequently unripe, and in enormous quantities, neglecting ordinary sanitary precautions, filthy in their habits and reckless in exposing themselves to the greatest heat, it is simply marvellous how little sickness there is in the towns, and on the Plain, where the sea-breeze is felt more, it is still healthier. There is hardly any fever or dysentery, and all the Turkish officials, with the single exception of the Moudiroumoun, look in better health than when I left in May. I do not mean to say that it is a pleasant place to live in for the three summer months; the heat is, of course, too great for that, but there need be no danger for a European if he will be only ordinarily careful in his habits. The Government have adopted the same method of collecting the tithes this year in this vilayet as was tried two years ago, when its agents succeeded in collecting considerably less than half the amount that would have been received had the tithes been sold. This year the result will be exactly the same; the dishonest and underpaid collectors will not get in more than £T. 50,000 worth, whereas the tithes would have sold for £T. 110,000 about.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FERDINAND BENNET.

No. 118.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received October 1.)

(No. 637.)
My Lord,

Constantinople, September 26, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch addressed to Major Trotter by Major Everett, reporting the movements of Turkish troops in the neighbourhood of the Persian frontier.

Major Everett also reports that there has been no disturbance at Van, and attributes the rumours to that effect which have lately been in circulation to the movements of Sheikh Obeidullah, who, though supposed to be remaining quiet at Ghevver, is now reported to have been joined by the Nestorians, and to be preparing for resistance.

This report was communicated to Major Everett by the Ottoman authorities, who appear to think that any force which the Sheikh could put into the field would be quickly crushed by the Imperial troops.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 118.

Major Everett to Major Trotter.

(No. 21.)
Sir,

Erzeroum, September 9, 1882.

I HAVE been informed by the Russian Consul-General here that, according to the news he has received from his Vice-Consul, there has been no disturbance at Van. I presume, therefore, that it was the arrival of Sheikh Obeidullah in that district which gave rise to the rumours in circulation, unless there has been some disturbance on the Persian frontier.

Turkish troops continue to concentrate on Hakkiari. During the past week I have learnt that one battalion from Mush, two battalions from the Dersim, three from Kharput, and five or six from Bagdad and Mosul, are moving in that direction. A squadron of cavalry from Baiburt, and a battalion of infantry from Trebizond, have passed through here for the same destination, and other troops are reported as being on the road from Sivas. Thus the number of troops which, to my knowledge, have been moved towards the frontier amounts to twenty-five or twenty-six battalions of infantry,* one regiment and one squadron of cavalry, and two batteries of mountain artillery, probably representing a force of some 10,000 men, exclusive of the cavalry (625 horses) and the guns (12).

Persian troops are reported to have been concentrated on their own frontier in Azerbaijan. It is difficult to estimate from this distance what their numbers may be. From one source of information that should be very reliable, I learnt that they amounted to 40,000 men, and from another, almost equally good, I heard that the whole force was not greater than 12,000 to 15,000 men at most. These latter figures agree better with my own idea of what the Persians might be able to concentrate, but I may be wrong. It is also rumoured that a Russian force, estimated at fifty battalions, is somewhere in the neighbourhood of Ararat; and if the reports of travellers may be believed, there are some grounds for the supposition that considerable numbers of Russian troops have been lately moved up to different points on the frontier, from Sary Kamish to the eastward.

Until lately it was supposed that Sheikh Obeidullah was remaining quietly at Ghevver, but the day before yesterday the Government received the information that he is preparing for resistance, and has been joined by the Nestorians.

In a conversation I had with the Vali a few days ago he expressed his opinion that Moussa Pasha, to whom the command of the army is given, would very quickly crush any force the Sheikh might be likely to bring against him, and he also spoke in strong terms of the necessity of energetic action. I trust that these words were sincere, but when I call to mind the devout homage rendered to the Sheikh on his arrival at Erzeroum last summer, it is somewhat difficult to believe that any openly hostile action will be taken against him. However, Moussa Pasha has the reputation, and not without reason, of being a very straightforward and determined soldier, and I feel fairly convinced that if he receives proper support from his officers and men, and has not been furnished with private instructions, he will do his duty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

No. 119.

Mr. Thomson to Earl Granville.—(Received October 9.)

(No. 154.)
My Lord,

Tehran, September 5, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that, on the 21st ultimo, the Persian Government received, through their Ambassador at the Porte, the news of Sheikh Obeidullah's escape from Constantinople. On the following day this intelligence was confirmed by the Persian frontier authorities, who reported that the Sheikh had passed through Van on his way to Nocheah, the district on the Persian border, which had been his place of residence for many years previous to his deportation thence last summer.

It appears that Sheikh Obeidullah left Constantinople about the 5th August. He had obtained a passport under an assumed name, which enabled him to embark on the

* Including seven battalions said to be at Van.

Russian steamer for Odessa. Thence he proceeded by way of Poti and Tiflis to Erivan, where he crossed the frontier, and was met by a large Kurdish escort, said to have numbered nearly 3,000 men, who had received previous notice, by letter, from Constantinople, that the Sheikh would probably reach the frontier about the middle of August.

The Turkish frontier officials state that immediately on Sheikh Obeidullah's escape becoming known, telegraphic instructions were sent from the Porte to the authorities at Van to arrest and send him back to Constantinople, but that these orders could not be carried out; the military force then available on the frontier being inadequate for the purpose.

The unexpected return of Sheikh Obeidullah to the Persian border has caused much disappointment and some uneasiness to the Shah and his Ministers. His Majesty, who has been absent in the Elbury Mountains for the last two months, sent me a message through the Minister for Foreign Affairs, requesting that I would telegraph to your Lordship his earnest hope that Her Majesty's Government would urge the Porte to take prompt measures for removing the Sheikh from his dangerous proximity to the Persian territory. Orders were also transmitted to Azerbijan that the Amir Nizam, who has for some time been encamped with a considerable force at Khoi, should not return to Tabreez, but maintain his present position and strengthen, as much as possible, the frontier defences, especially those in the direction of Merghever and Oroomiah.

I was informed yesterday by the Minister for Foreign Affairs that the Persian Government has received more recent intelligence from the Turkish authorities on the frontier, and from the Turkish Ambassador here, to the effect that a strong force of 8,000 men, it is said, had been moved from Erzeroum and Mosul to the neighbourhood of Van, and that stringent orders had been issued by the Porte for the recapture of Sheikh Obeidullah by force, if necessary. Yusuf Bey, Mir Alai, had been dispatched to Nocheah to summon him to surrender, but this officer appears to have been fired upon when approaching the Sheikh's residence, and, two of his men having been wounded, he had returned without effecting the object for which he had been sent.

Sheikh Obeidullah is said to have dismissed a large number of his followers, but it is believed that he has made arrangements for their rejoining him whenever their services are required. He is also reported to be in communication with the son of the late Hamza Agha, Chief of the Persian Mankoor tribe, with a view to obtain his assistance in the event of fresh hostilities, and I am informed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs that the Persian authorities have, within the last few days, intercepted letters, in which Sheikh Obeidullah incites the Chiefs of the Persian Kurdish tribe of Moonish to join him in renewing hostilities on the Persian territory. In these, it is said, he states that he has been set at liberty by the Turkish Government, and insinuates that he is acting with their authority. The Amir Nizam has telegraphed from Khoi that he has forwarded these letters to Tehran, but they have not yet reached the Persian Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RONALD F. THOMSON.

No. 120.

Mr. Thomson to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 9.)

(No. 161.) *Tehran, September* 12, 1882.

My Lord,

I WAS yesterday informed that the Persian Government had received a telegram from Constantinople announcing that Sheikh Obeidullah had surrendered to the Turkish frontier authorities, and that the Porte intended to send him to Medina, where he had asked to be allowed to reside instead of at Constantinople; and, in the evening when I met the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Turkish Ambassador at the Russian Legation, they both confirmed this intelligence, Fahri Bey informing me that he also had received it in a telegram which had just reached him from the Ottoman authorities in the Hakkiari.

No confirmation of the above news has, however, yet been received by the Persian Government from the Azerbijan frontier.

The Turkish Ambassador has also informed me that Suleiman Pasha, one of the Sultan's aides-de-camp, who was sent to Tehran in the spring of 1881 to convey

friendly assurances to the Shah on the subject of the Kurdish inroad, which had then been made from the Turkish territory upon that of Persia, has now left Constantinople for Tehran, bringing with him the Osmanieh in diamonds for the Shah and other decorations for a number of influential persons at this Court. Suleiman Pasha's mission has probably been suggested by Malcom Khan, who has recently visited Constantinople on his way to Berlin and England.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RONALD F. THOMSON.

No. 121.

Consul-General Abbott to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 9.)

(No. 15.) *Tabreez, September* 17, 1882.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 12 of the 13th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a further despatch addressed by me to Her Majesty's Minister at Tehran, reporting that the Turkish forces operating against Sheikh Obeidullah have surrounded Nehriyeh, his place of residence in Kurdistan, and that it is expected he will shortly surrender himself to the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM G. ABBOTT.

Inclosure in No. 121.

Consul-General Abbott to Mr. Thomson.

(No. 40.) *Tabreez, September* 16, 1882.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that on the 13th instant a report was circulated here that Sheikh Obeidullah had surrendered to the Pashas commanding the forces dispatched by the Porte to the Turkish frontier, and that the Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs had telegraphed to the Veli Ahd to that effect.

An officer of His Royal Highness' household having vouched for the accuracy of this report, I telegraphed it to you. But it appears to have been premature, and I then immediately announced to you that the news of the Sheikh's surrender had not been confirmed.

To-day I learn that the purport of the Foreign Minister's telegram to the Veli Ahd was to remove any misapprehensions which might have arisen in the mind of His Royal Highness with regard to the Turkish army now concentrated near the Persian border, and assure him that it had been sent there with the sole object of controlling the action of the Sheikh.

I have since communicated with the Foreign Office Agent on this subject. He informs me that Mustapha and Moussa Pashas have besieged Nehriyeh, the residence of the Sheikh in the Nocheah district, with nine regiments and six guns.

An officer sent by the Pashas to Obeidullah, inviting him to surrender, returned to them with an evasive answer. A Binbashi with some cavalry-men, dispatched on a similar errand, was fired upon. The former was wounded and two of the horsemen killed.

The Agent thought that Obeidullah would probably soon surrender himself to the Porte, and he had heard that when the Turkish Government had him in their hands they intended sending him to reside at Medina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM G. ABBOTT.

No. 122.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 9.)

(No. 950.) *Therapia, October* 3, 1882.

My Lord,

IN contradiction to his first Report, which I had the honour to communicate to your Lordship in my telegram No. 400 of the 11th instant, Major Everett now reports

that Sheikh Obeidullah has not surrendered, and that there is a rumour that he is preparing to resist.

Major Everett also states that it is expected that the Sheikh will be joined by Marshimum, and that the Turkish troops have concentrated at Dizza.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 123.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received October 9.)

(No. 958.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October 3, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a despatch addressed to Major Trotter by Major Everett reporting the movements of Sheikh Obeidullah, and giving an account of the general state of affairs in Erzeroum.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 123.

Major Everett to Major Trotter.

(No. 22.)
(Extract.) *Erzeroum, September 15, 1882.*

ON Sunday last I was informed from a fairly good source that Sheikh Obeidullah had surrendered himself to the Government. Inquiring whether he would be sent back to Constantinople, my informant replied that he thought not, but that, perhaps, he would be removed further into the interior.

On the same day a man, who had left Van twelve days before, reported that at that time the Sheikh, with 5,000 horsemen, was surrounded by two battalions of regular troops, and that Proclamations had been posted in the streets of Van warning the inhabitants that all those who were discovered in the act of joining the Sheikh, or were detected making any disturbance in his favour, should be hung. This information seemed to give some colour to the statement above referred to, since it showed that the Sheikh had been already surrounded, and seeing that several battalions of regular troops ought to have arrived in the neighbourhood since, there was a possibility of his having come to terms.

On Monday morning, from inquiries that I caused to be made at the Serail, I learnt that it was generally understood that the Sheikh had surrendered himself, but the Vali had received no telegram to that effect, and the news had only been known, in some way or other, from a telegram transmitted through Erzeroum, and sent from Moussa Pasha, the Commandant at Van, to Nafyz Pasha, the Commander of the 4th Army Corps at Erzingan. The news was, therefore, probably reliable, but it must not be forgotten that for its accuracy we are possibly dependent on the statement of a Turkish telegraph clerk.

Since then nothing has transpired, and in the meantime opinion is divided, some people holding to it that he is taken, some that he will be taken shortly, and some that he is not and cannot be taken.

Yesterday, fifty men were brought in handcuffed to Erzeroum. They are deserters from the army, and probably not the last batch we shall see. The service has long been unpopular, and the want of money is now so severely felt that there must be great difficulty in providing for the most ordinary wants of the soldier.

Another caravan robbery occurred on the Diarbekir road a day or two ago, and a large robbery of cattle in the district of Tekman, on the southern side of the Palentoken Mountains. Some Christian pilgrims, just returned from the monastery of Sourp Gharabet at Mush, report that the roads are in a very bad state, and that the inhabitants of the plain of Mush live in daily terror by reason of a certain Mehemet Ali, who, with a band of thirty horsemen, is committing many robberies. I daresay it is so. There are very few roads in this vilayet, upon which anything is to be got, where there are not bands of robbers ready for the caravans. The other vilayets are, no doubt, as bad, probably worse.

No. 124.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received October 16.)

(No. 965.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 8, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a copy of a despatch which I have received from Major Everett, inclosing a Report on his recent journey in the western portion of the Vilayet of Erzeroum.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 124.

Major Everett to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 4.)
My Lord, *Erzeroum, September 22, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith the Report on my recent journey in the western portion of this vilayet. A good deal of trouble has been taken in collecting the statistics, which I believe will be found to give a fairly accurate representation of the numbers of the population in the cazas through which I travelled, and of the proportion which the different races bear to each other.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 124.

Report by Major Everett on a Journey through the Districts of Terjan, Erzingan, Kemach, Gurdjenis, Sheyran, and Kelkit.

TERJAN is a large caza lying immediately to the westward of Erzeroum. The principal town and seat of government is Mamakhatoun, in olden days of considerable size and some importance, now a mediocre village of 500 inhabitants, possessing a small and dilapidated barrack sheltering a squadron of cavalry.

The district is watered by the Kara-Su (Euphrates), the Tuzla, or Terjan Su, and the Pulk Su, and is, with the exception of a small portion on the eastern side of the Kara Su, a mountainous tract, bare of trees and affording fine pasturage. The result is sheep-breeding on a large scale. The only other crops of importance are wheat and barley.

The number of villages is 96, of which 33 are Kurdish, 29 are Turkish, 13 are Armenian, and 20 are mixed. Statistics are given in Table I. The Kurds are those known as Kizilbash, and have emigrated from time to time from Kozlitchan and the Dersim. The chief point of interest about them is their religion, but it is difficult to obtain from them any reliable information concerning it, and I can add nothing in this respect to the remarks of the late Consul Taylor made in his Report of the Dersim district in 1866. They profess a friendliness to the Christians, which by the latter is attributed partially to their being in the same oppressed condition, and partially to their desire of obtaining some protection from Christian members of the district Medjlisses, on which they are not represented. They also profess great friendship for us, and, though they would not enlighten me much on their own tenets, impressed on me that there was not so much difference between their religion and mine.

I believe the American missionaries have learnt from some of the Kizilbash Chiefs that they have an inclination to come over in large numbers to the Protestant faith. This may be attributed to a desire for protection from our Consuls; but I also believe that there is amongst these wild and uneducated people a wish to better themselves, and from personal observation I feel tolerably certain that the religious tendency is towards Christianity. When visiting old churches in this country I have observed that when in possession of the Turks they are turned into mosques or cattle-folds, according to the state of the ruin. Among the Kizilbash Kurds, on the contrary, the ruins of Christian churches, however dilapidated, are respected, and no cattle are at any time permitted to defile them.

The Armenians assert that the Kizilbash Kurds are of Armenian origin.

Personally, I am not inclined to think so. There is no resemblance in the physiognomy to the Armenian. These people are dark and swarthy, handsome, and well set up; their manners taking, cheery, frank, and straightforward. In character they appear to be, generally speaking, quiet and inoffensive, but they number amongst them many wild spirits who, refusing to cultivate the soil, occupy themselves entirely in plundering travellers of all nationalities, including their own, and in taking by force from the more peaceable inhabitants everything they require. The most celebrated of these brigands, in this vilayet, dwell in the mountains near the sources of the Pulk Su, and give great annoyance to the other inhabitants of the whole valley. The residence of the Chiefs is at the Kurdish village of Bashkeui. The senior members of the family all died in the prison at Erzingan. Their bodies were then removed to Bashkeui, where the present Aghas have erected in their memory rude but handsome monuments, on the sides of which are carved, according to the custom of the country, the implements of their profession; in this case swords, shields, lances, pistols, &c. While I was there two zaptiehs were endeavouring to persuade these Aghas to come to Erzingan to answer for their sins, but, I take it, they were not very successful in their efforts. The hatred of the Kizilbash Kurd for Turkish rule is great, and he would probably lend a hand to any attempt to throw it off that promised success. The principal complaints in this district were of robberies by the Kurds, and of distress occasioned by quartering the refugees on the inhabitants. Both complaints are just enough.

The mineral productions of Terjan are extensive. In addition to the numerous salt springs (details of which are given in Table III), there is every probability of lead in the neighbourhood of Pekaridteh, good marble in large quantities near Komsor, and a petroleum spring near Pulk. This spring is held in great veneration by the inhabitants, both Kurdish and Armenian. Once a-year they assemble around it and sacrifice lambs to the protecting saint, using the oil for curing rheumatism.

At this moment some Armenians are endeavouring to obtain the concession of this spring. The Government are placing considerable difficulties in their way, perhaps fortunately, as I believe that any attempts to interfere with the spring would be strongly resented by the inhabitants. Near Pulk, also, there are two salt wells, at present unworked, and a sulphur spring. At the eastern end of the district, near Hulenk, are several hot springs.

The road from Terjan into the plain of Erzingan crosses the Djibija Dagh, the descent on the western side being 1,000 feet greater than the ascent from the bridge over the Euphrates opposite Mamakhatoun. The consequences are a change of climate and products.

The plain of Erzingan is about 25 miles long by 8 miles broad at the widest part. It is watered by the Euphrates, and by numerous smaller streams flowing down from the mountains. The water from these latter is, during the spring and summer, almost entirely drained off for purposes of irrigation. The land is nearly everywhere highly cultivated, and for the most part terraced, at great expense of labour, in order the better to retain the water.

The products being given in the list appended (Table II), there is no necessity to say much on the subject here. It may be noticed, however, that the grapes are greatly inferior in quality to those cultivated in the valley of the Tchoruk Su. The cotton, on the other hand, is said to be greatly superior to that grown at Karput. It is taxed in kind at $\frac{1}{10}$th, and sells in the raw at from 10 to 15 piastres the oke, being exported to Constantinople.

The town of Erzingan contains about 19,200 people, of whom 12,600 are Turks and 6,600 are Armenians. The Armenians form the richer part of the community. The town is increasing greatly in size, and in all directions large and well-built houses are springing up. The houses of Erzingan are generally made flat-roofed, and are built of sun-dried bricks within wooden frames, the whole being covered with a coating of brown mud, the effect of which is neither cheerful nor agreeable. There are, however, some others of more recent date, of more elaborate design, and having sloping roofs, brick-tiled. The general construction is altogether much lighter than at Erzeroum, and, with many windows and thin walls, are not calculated to resist great cold. In point of fact, the winters are neither so severe nor of such long duration as at the capital. The country is generally open in March, and crops are ready for harvesting at the beginning of July.

The caza contains 94 villages, all situated in the plain or on the sides of the mountains which surround it. Of these, 32 are Turkish, 27 are Kurdish, 18 are Armenian, and 17 are mixed (see Table I). Many of these villages are very large and

well-to-do, and are nearly all well sheltered by fruit trees, the houses being one and two storied, and for the most part above ground. Those villages nearer the city are the resort of all those of the townspeople who can afford to live there during the summer months, when the climate of the town is very unhealthy. Fever, dysentery, and diseases of the eye appear to be the prevailing complaints.

There are two Government factories at Erzingan, one for the preparation of woollen cloth for soldiers' clothes, and the other for soldiers' boots and shoes, gaiters, and saddlery; details of these factories are given in Tables VII and VIII. There is also a fine military hospital and large barracks (see Tables V and VI), but both are on the way to ruin.

Nafyz Pasha, the Commander of the 4th Army Corps, appears to be an energetic and a well-educated man. He spoke to me of many projects, such as the widening of the streets of the town and the introduction of a proper system of drainage, the erection of military offices apart from the Serail, and the construction of a new road, together with a line of telegraph through the Merjan Pass direct to Karput. While it is impossible to deny the advantages of all these schemes, it is very unlikely that any of them will be carried out, at all events for the present.

The Government of the Mutessarifik of Erzingan* is under Hadji Hussein Pasha, a refugee from Ardahan. He does not, I am told, differ much from other Turkish officials, but I am inclined to think favourably of him on the whole. Being well off, he is independent of the salary he receives from the Government. He is certainly kind-hearted and straightforward, and I heard no complaints made of him from any side. He complained to me greatly of the depredations committed by the Dersim Kurds, and of the difficulty of obtaining any justice since the Dersim had been made into a separate vilayet.

The condition of the Armenians in the town compares very favourably with that of their compatriots to the eastward. Their schools are numerous and flourishing, their freedom considerable. They appear to me to have nothing whatever to complain of specially, nor, in fact, did they make any complaints to me.

The principal occupation of their poorer classes is towel-making and the weaving of manoussa, a coloured stuff used for covering divans.

In the villages they occasionally suffer oppression, but are well treated so long as they show deference to the dominant race.

Statistics of education among the Armenians at Erzingan are given in Table IX. Having visited personally all the schools, I can testify to the energy with which the movement is being carried on, and to a proficiency among the pupils which really reflects the highest credit both on them and on their masters. On this subject I need only repeat what I have already stated in my Report on education written in July 1881, viz., that it is extraordinary to see boys taken from the artizan class so proficient. My visit to these schools has afforded me another convincing proof of the great intellectual capacity of the Armenian nation.

I regret to state that side by side with this intellectual development there exists, among the Armenians of Erzingan, a spirit of illiberality which is greatly to be deplored.

I have already had occasion to refer to the persecution of the few Protestants dwelling in that city by their Gregorian compatriots; and I am sorry to say that again lately a cowardly attack has been made on the new American mission-house which cannot but fail to bring discredit on the nation, but which I have only too much reason to fear has been incited by the very men who are labouring so earnestly to educate the minds of the rising generation. Such actions as these cannot but tend to estrange the sympathies of more civilized nations, and it is greatly to be hoped that those who have the power should lose no time in pointing out to them the folly of such a course, and at the same time take the necessary measures to prevent such actions in the future.

The growing importance of Erzingan, its more genial climate, and central position, mark it at once as a town that should have before it a prosperous future. Untrammelled at present by fortifications, there is ample room for expansion. The principal hindrance to its progress is the want of good communications. With the exception of the roads to Sivas and Erzeroum, there is nothing along which even the country araba can make its way; and connection with Baibart, Egin, and Karput, and indeed with many parts of the plain itself, has to be maintained by horses, asses, and oxen.

* Details are given in Table IV.

On leaving the plain of Erzingan, the Euphrates flows westward for many miles through a deep gorge. A horse-path to Kemach follows the right bank.

The products of the Caza of Kemach are much the same as those of Erzingan, with the exception that no cotton is grown. The town is picturesquely situated and, though probably interesting to the artist or the antiquary, has nothing to recommend it from any other point of view. It contains 1,800 inhabitants, of whom 300 are Christians. A wretched bazaar affords no attractions for the European, and not much apparently to the native, seeing that, for lack of business, the shops open late and close early in the afternoon.

The great point of interest at Kemach is the existence of certain personages who, for centuries past, have exercised considerable influence in the country, and are known as the Kemach Beys. Their former powers were extensive; of these they are now shorn, but even at this moment they remain practically far more influential than the Government, and in point of fact, within certain certain limits, do very much what they please.

With a Government inclined to act at all times, and to the best of its ability, for the good of the people, it is certain that these Beys would prove so great a nuisance as to render steps necessary to prevent them from interfering in matters wherein they have no business. But so long as the Government is only a machine used for replenishing the pockets of its members and the coffers of the Porte, it is questionable whether the Beys are not, even as they are, a boon to the inhabitants. If at times they do not themselves act with justice, at others they obtain it from the hands of the Government, while the benefits which they confer upon the people in their capacity of large landowners, and more directly by their wealth, are not inconsiderable. It is the Beys who have laid on good drinking water from the mountains to the town, who have built fountains, who have made what roads exist, who are now engaged in building a khan for travellers between their town and Erzingan, and who contemplate making a new and more convenient bridge over the Euphrates at Kemach. Doubtless, by these enterprises, the Beys themselves benefit as well as the inhabitants, but this fact does not make their actions either less beneficial to the country, or to contrast less favourably with the conduct of the Government which, taking all it can obtain, gives nothing back.

No doubt sometimes they use their power most unjustly. There is a forest belonging to Pekkaridich, a large Armenian village in the neighbourhood. The people have title-deeds innumerable, confirmed over and over again from Constantinople, to prove their right to the possession of the forest; yet, last year, Aladin Bey sent his men up to the forest, and cutting about 20 liras' worth of wood, he sold it deliberately in the market, and in open defiance of the feeble remonstrances of the Government A lawsuit has been the result, and though the Armenians ought most certainly to receive at least the value of the wood, I am quite satisfied that they will never obtain it.

It may be understood from this incident that the actions of the Beys are unrestrained by any laws, and depend, therefore, pretty much on their natural bent for good or evil. Under these circumstances, it is perhaps not a little to their credit that they do so much good, and—so far as I could learn—so little harm.

The mineral products of this caza are considerable. In the Kara Dagh, near the village of Egwiran (four hours from Kemach) there is coal. It was formerly worked from the surface by a Frenchman, but was eventually abandoned, probably for want of capital. The Government then took it in hand for a short time, and dropped it. Since then it has been neglected. I visited the spot, and can testify to the fact of its existence. The samples are fair.

There is also much salt in the neighbourhood; in fact, the district was anciently called by the Armenians "Darunaghi," or salt district.

Gypsum is in great abundance, and various kinds of marble are also to be found.

From Kemach I worked my way up to Shebban-Karahissar, through a mountainous district called Gurgenis or Rikhish. As may be seen from the statistics, it is principally populated by Turks and Kurds. A few Armenians and Greeks make up the remainder of the inhabitants, but the Greeks are fast emigrating to Russia.

The mountains throughout this caza are covered with forests of pine and fir; cultivation is scant, and confined to wheat and barley in small quantities.

The people gain a livelihood by cutting the pine-wood, which is transported to Baiburt and Erzingan for sale. The chief town is probably Melik-Scherif, but the seat

of government is at a khan in the small village of Gurgenis. The Kaïmakam, Sadyk Bey, is a recent importation from Constantinople. The inhabitants, with whom he is not popular, informed me that he was generally intoxicated.

Salt is to be found in the caza in one or two places, and an abandoned lead mine in the Kizil Dagh, at Ghemadjuk, on the Sivas road. I examined the spot, and had no difficulty in finding several specimens of ore, which is of that description known as galena. I cannot say whether it is argentiferous. The mine is well situated within a couple of hundred yards of a good road, while wood and water are abundant.

From Gurgenis I marched directly to Shebban-Karahissar. I found that the officials had received both news of my arrival and orders not to give me any information on the state of the country. The Christians were also similarly warned. There do not appear to be many Armenians in the neighbourhood, but the state of those few is not enviable. They complained greatly to me of not having any one to protect them, and informed me that they had applied to the Russian Consul at Trebizond begging that a Russian Vice-Consulate be established in the town.

In the month of December last the son of the priest of the village of Alamonik returned from Russia, bringing with him some cloth which he had bought there. Some soldiers from Shebban-Karahissar went to the village, and accused the man of having stolen the cloth, which they affirmed belonged to the Government. The matter was reported to the authorities, and a Yuzbashi (Captain) and some soldiers were sent over to the village to seize it, when the Yuzbashi appears to have beaten the priest to such an extent that he died three days afterwards.

Notwithstanding the wounds upon the head and body of the murdered man, the Turkish doctors, who made a *post-mortem* examination, returned a verdict of "Died from fright," and since then nothing more has been heard of the matter. Neither the Yuzbashi nor the soldiers received any punishment.

At the village of Kertanotz, near Shebban-Karahissar, about a month before my arrival, a quarrel occurred between an old Armenian and a soldier concerning the irrigation of a field. The soldier finally set upon the Armenian and beat him severely. The son of the Armenian, hearing his father had been beaten, came down to the field, and, fighting with the soldier, killed him. The Armenian was then imprisoned. About a fortnight afterwards a number of soldiers coming through the village from Erzingan beat the whole of the villagers, men and women, in a most unmerciful manner out of revenge. Nevertheless, several of the Armenians were put in prison, and none of the soldiers were reprimanded.

These two matters were those uppermost in the minds of the Armenians of Shebban-Karahissar at the time of my visit; they complained also of over-taxation.

As one of Her Majesty's Vice-Consuls has already visited Karahissar, there will be no necessity for me to do more than make a few observations.

The special occupation of the townspeople is the weaving of manoussa, for which purpose there are at present about 800 looms. It is exported to Sivas and Kherasond. The trade is said to be declining. A narrow, strong, and course cloth for country wear is also fabricated, but not in large quantities. Wheat, of which a good deal is grown on the lower slopes of the mountains, is exported to Kherasond.

The chief trade is with Constantinople, and the principal imports are iron, nails, thread, cloth, and wool. The latter is also imported from Karput. There is a small transit trade of skins imported from the Crimea and bound for Arabkir.

The mineral wealth of the district is great. Shebban-Karahissar has long been renowned for its mines of alum ("shebb"). More lately, argentiferous lead appears to have been worked, and, where capital has been employed, with considerable success.

The principal mines in the neighbourhood are as follows:—

Sobak:—Argentiferous lead, C. E. Austin, Esq.
Lidjasa:—Argentiferous lead, M. Esherik.
Two hours on old Kherasond Road:—Alum, Government.
Keylik:—Alum, not worked.
Tchorak:—Alum, Government.
Ghoraza:—Alum, Government.
Ghemin:—Argentiferous lead, not worked.

I re-entered my vilayet by the district of Sheyran, a small and unimportant caza belonging to the Sandjak of Baiburt. Statistics both of it and of the neighbouring Caza

of Kelkit will be found in Table I, from which it will be seen that the paucity of Armenians is remarkable.

I have very little to observe on either of these cazas. The former is highly wooded, and forms the chief depôt from which Baiburt draws its supply of fuel. The latter is essentially a wheat-growing country, and from it large quantities are exported to Gumush Khaneh and the north in exchange for wearing apparel and other commodities. The trade is carried on by Armenians, and payment for the goods is generally left until the harvest of the following year, a high rate of interest being charged for the delay.

In both of these cazas—in Sheyran, near the village of Teyrsoom, and in Kelkit, at one hour from Kelkit Tchiflik—lead is to be found: neither mine is at present worked by the Government.

The following observations are applicable to all the districts through which I have recently travelled:—

On all sides complaints were made to me of ill-treatment received at the hands of soldiers and zaptichs, who literally live on the inhabitants.

There is no need for me to enter into explanations. Want of pay and food obliges these officials to have recourse to pillage.

On all the high roads and mountain passes brigandage is rampant. To such an extent is this carried on upon some roads that the traffic has to be altogether discontinued during the summer months.

The contraband tobacco trade is carried on by the Lazes throughout all these districts with impunity. I should say the greater part of the tobacco consumed is of this nature, and being both cheaper and purer, is preferred by every one, officials included.

What I said above of the Government, when speaking of the Kemach Beys, is true for every other district. The sole and only occupation of all the officials is making money, for themselves first, and afterwards for the Sultan.

(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

September 22, 1882.

APPENDIX.

Table I.

Caza or District.	Number of Villages.	Turks.		Kurds.		Armenians.		Greeks.		Circassians.	
		Houses.	Souls.	Houses.	Souls.	Houses.	Souls.	Houses.	Souls.	Houses.	Souls.
Vilayet of Erzeroum.											
Terjan	96	972	7,776	562	4,396	990	7,920	45	360	..	..
Erzingan—											
City	..	2,100	12,600	..	..	1,100	6,600	..	..	..	..
Villages	94	2,626	21,008	730	5,740	1,307	10,456	..	..	..	..
Kemach—											
Town	..	250	1,500	..	..	50	300	..	..	..	..
Villages	54	844	6,752	370	2,960	135	2,520	..	..	..	..
Gurgenis	63	1,086	8,688	365	2,920	130	1,040	193	1,544	..	..
Sheyran	71	1,222	9,776	255	2,040	30	240	121	968	128	1,024
Kelkit	84	2,550	20,424	94	752	40	320	223	1,864	..	..
Total	..	11,653	88,524	2,376	18,908	3,062	24,896	592	4,376	128	1,024

N.B.—The above includes women and children. The numbers of houses were obtained from inquiry on the spot, and have been multiplied by eight to obtain the number of souls in the villages, and by six to obtain the population of the towns. Many of the Greeks were on the point of emigrating when these statistics were taken.

Table II.

Vilayet.	Sanjak.	Caza.	Seat of Government.	Level.	Cereals.	Products.	Timber.	Minerals.	Remarks.
Erzeroum	Erzeroum ..	Terjan ..	Mamakhtoun ..	4,440	Wheat and barley ..	Fruit and vegetables, cucumbers and vegetable-marrows in small quantities, onions.	None	Marble, limestones, gypsum, alabaster, petroleum, sulphur, salt (see Table III).	Fine pasturage on mountains; a great sheep - breeding country.
	Erzingan ..	Erzingan ..	Erzingan ..	3,345	Wheat, barley, a little maize, cotton	Mulberries, apricots, apples, pears, peaches, walnuts, cornel, red jujubes (*Zizyphus rubra*), melons, water-melons, cucumbers, vegetable - marrows, onions.	Walnut, fruit trees, dwarf oak, pine, and on some of higher slopes of mountains	Mineral waters, iron, seltzer water, coal reported to exist in Merjan Dagh (?), copper on mountains to north.	There are probably many other valuable minerals in these mountains, among others asbestos.
	Erzingan ..	Kemach ..	Kemach ..	3,021	Wheat and barley in small quantities, maize	Fruits and vegetables as for Erzingan, but all in much smaller quantities.	Pine and fruit trees	Coal, limestone, marble, salt, gypsum, alabaster	
	Erzingan ..	Gurgenis, or Rimhich	Aldhan in village of Gurgenis	4,675	Wheat and barley and maize in small quantities	Mulberries, apples, pears, walnuts, red jujube, cucumbers, vegetable-marrows, onions.	Pine and Scotch fir in large quantities, dwarf oak, fruit trees	Lead at Gemadjeh ..	
Sivas ..	Karahissar ..	Karahissar ..	Karahissar ..	4,118	Wheat, barley ..	Apples, pears, apricots, walnuts, cucumbers, vegetable - marrows, onions.	Pine and firs, dwarf oak, fruit trees, poplar	Silver, copper, lead, alum, limestone	
Erzeroum ..	Baiburt ..	Sheyran ..	..	4,335	Wheat, barley, maize in small quantities	Vegetable - marrows, cucumbers, onions.	Pine and firs in large quantities	Lead in the Ginour Dagh, near Tersoom	
	Baiburt ..	Kelkit ..	Kelkit Tchiflik ..	4,147	Wheat and barley ..	As above	Pine, firs, poplar ..	Lead two hours from Kelkit Tchiflik	Great wheat-growing country.

(Table III.)—Tenjan Salt Work.

Place.	How obtained.	Number of Pans.	Average Amount obtained per Season.	Pay of Officials per Month.
			Okes.	Piastres.
Kara Sheikh Kara Göl ..	Well	120	60,000	300
Tchagöler	,,	132	150,000	500
Yarmak	Well, running water	70 to 80	120,000	200
	Well	330	500,000	600
Muhlas	,,	50 to 60	100,000	250
Kiziljia	,,	30 to 40		
Parmaksiz	,,	18	35,000	300
Tchimdik	,,	22		
Bazarbashi	,,	18		
Dearboy	,,	32	25,000	200
Karinkess	,,	70	35,000	200
Yekilghun	Spring	Not worked	..	..
Komadeor	Well	,,	..	..
Polk	2 wells			

(Table IV.)—Government of the Mutessariflik of Erzingan.

	Per Month.
	Piastres.
Mutessarif	6,000
Idaieh Medjliss (four members)	Unpaid.
Chief writer	500
Assistant writer	90
Court of First Instance—	
1. Civil Section—	
President (the Cadi)	2,700
2 members .. .. each ..	360
1 honorary member	270
Chief writer	600
2 assistant writers .. .. each ..	270
2. Criminal Section—	
President	1,100
Honorary President	360
1 member	360
1 member	270
Procureur-Général	1,100
Assistant Defterdar	2,500
Deputy Assistant Defterdar	450
Chief writer	350
2 assistant writers .. .. each ..	150
Tax-collector	300
Principal assistant tax-collector	400
6 sub-collectors—	
2 cavalry .. .. each ..	230
4 infantry .. .. ,, ..	130
Tithe-collector	1,750
Chief writer	650
Assistant writer	350
Second assistant writer	250
Evenf Mudir (mortages)	850
Assistant Mudir	400
Tahrirat Mudir (official letters)	1,000
Chief writer	350
2 assistant writers .. .. each ..	90
Evrak Mudir (registration)	200
Assistant Mudir	150
Arazi Mudir (property)	750
Assistant Mudir	400
2 writers .. .. each ..	250
Emlak Mudir (house property)	700
Chief writer	400
Assistant writer	300
Idjra Memouri (execution of sentences)	500
Mubashir (zaptieh as assistant)	150
Assistant Mubashir	150
Notary	800
Mukhvelat Muhareri (Chief Notary)	300
Assistant Muhareri	300

	Per Month.
	Piastres.
Mubashir	150
Belediye Medjliss (Town Council)—	
President	500
3 members	Unpaid.
4 Mubashirs .. .. each ..	150
Bazaar controller	250
Treasurer	450
Zabtiun Medjliss (Police-court)—	
Binbashi (Major), Yuzbashi (Captain), 4 Mulazims (Lieutenants), 100 zaptiehs, 40 cavalry, 60 foot.	
Custom-house—	
Director	600
Chief writer	330
Assistant writer	200
6 Koljі (assistants)—	
2 cavalry	200
4 foot	50
Post Office—	
Mudir	950
Principal assistant	500
Second assistant	400
Third assistant	400
Posts—	
To Trebizond direct; to Erzeroum viâ Gumushkhaneh; to Kharput viâ Kemaeh, Egin, and Arabkir; to Karahissar viâ Trebizond.	
Telegraph Office—	
Same officials. Five machines. Communication: direct with Erzeroum, Sivas, Karahissar, and Trebizond.	

(Table V.)—Military Hospital.

Number of beds 500
Number of patients (June 17, 1882) 167

Principal diseases:

Typhoid fever.	Dysentery.
Intermittent fever.	Syphilis.

	Per Month.
	Piastres.
Staff—	
2 chief doctors, with rank of Colonel .. .. .. each ..	2,700
1 ,, ,, Lieutenant-Colonel	2,000
4 ,, ,, Captain	960
5 physicians—	
1	900
4	500
1 Colonel (physician)	2,000
Assistant	1,500
6 surgeons—	
1	800
5	400
1 Mudir	800
1 superintendent	250
3 sub-officials	600
Chief writer	600
Assistant writer	400
2 underwriters	150

N.B.—Strangers are admitted into the hospital on payment of expenses.

(Table VI.)—Barracks.

The barracks are reported to hold 4,000 men. On the 18th June, 1882, there were quartered in them:—

	Battalions.	Regiment.
Infantry	3	..
Artillery	2	..
Cavalry	..	1

(Table VII.)—Government Cloth Manufactory.

Staff: A Binbashi (Major), 1 writer, 1 Lieutenant, and 1 machinist.

	Machines.
Combing machines—	
Modern	1
Native pattern	3
Coarse thread spinning machines—	
Old pattern	2
Fine thread spinning machines—	
European make	1
Native pattern	5
Skeining machines—	
European pattern	4
Native pattern	40
Looms—	
Hand worked	36
Shrinking machine	1

Number of workmen employed, 130.

	Piastres.
Payment by the piece as follows—	
Per "tobe" of 22 archines	11½
Per "tobe" of 36 archines	17½
Spinners, per every 8 okes	12
Combers, per diem	18

Average amount turned out per diem, 200 archines.

	Piastres.
Price of wool in the raw per oke	7
Average expenses per month	9,000

(Table VIII.)—Government Leather Manufactory.

Number of men employed	130
Number of machines	4
Number of pairs of boots turned out per week	800

Leather imported from Roumelia and from the Crimea, also from Kurdistan; average prices paid per skin, 8 to 15 piastres.

N.B.—The size of the factory is to be doubled, and new buildings are in course of construction.

(Table IX.)—Armenian Schools at Erzingan.

	Number of Masters or Mistresses.	Number of Pupils.	Studies.
National Schools.			
1. Central High School for boys	5	220	Turkish, French, Armenian, arithmetic, geography, history, vocal music. The Catechism, gymnastics.
2. Preparatory School for boys	5	200	Armenian, arithmetic, geography, national history, vocal music.
3. Preparatory School for boys	4	100	Reading, writing, arithmetic. The Catechism, vocal music.
4. Girls' school	1	250	Armenian, arithmetic, national and sacred history. The Catechism, needlework, embroidery, lace-making.
5. School for the preparation of masters to educate villagers	4	40	Turkish, Armenian, French, arithmetic, national and sacred history, geography, vocal music, the Catechism.
Private Schools.			
1. Social school for boys	12	140	Turkish, French, Armenian, and book-keeping. Ancient and modern Armenian. Physical and political geography, national, sacred, and universal history, drawing, physics, anatomy, vocal and instrumental music, the Catechism.
2. School for boys and girls	2	80	Armenian, arithmetic, national and sacred history, needlework, and embroidery.
		1,030	

No. 125.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received October 16.)

(No. 960.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October 10, 1882.*

THE British Vice-Consul at Mossoul has brought to my notice the complaints made, both by Christians and Mussulmans, with regard to the conduct of Daoud Effendi, the Public Prosecutor at that place. This functionary latterly arrested the Mayor of the Christian village of Tellkef, in an arbitrary manner, and kept him in prison for some time without trial in the hope of obtaining a bribe from the villagers of Tellkef for the release of their Mayor.

I have thought it right to bring the conduct of this official to the notice of the Foreign Minister, who has accordingly written to the Minister of Justice on the subject.

I may mention that Daoud Effendi was, some three years since, a preparer of skins in Mossoul, and owes his present position to protection he enjoys in Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 126.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 614.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, October 19, 1882.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 969 of the 10th instant, with regard to the conduct of Daoud Effendi, Public Prosecutor of Mossoul, and I have to state that I approve of your Excellency's having brought the conduct of this functionary to the notice of the Porte.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 127.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received October 23.)

(No. 982.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October 17, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a summary of a document which has come into my hands, purporting to be a Petition addressed by the Kurds to the Committee of Inquiry at Van, asking that means of instruction may be afforded them as the best way of improving their condition.

The paper is without date, but appears to have been written some time since, as allusion is made in it to the Famine Relief Committee at Van. It is probably the same as that addressed to the Provincial Reform Committee at Van, which was signed by some of the principal Kurdish Chiefs. Major Trotter has alluded to this Petition in his correspondence of the year 1880, which has since appeared in a Blue Book.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 127.

Summary of a Report addressed by Kurdish Chiefs to the Committee of Inquiry at Van.

(Translation.)

THE writers draw attention to the fact that, considering the large Kurdish population in Van, Bitlis, Erzeroum, and Diarbekir, there is a lamentable want of education throughout those provinces, and the modern sciences of Western Europe are almost entirely unknown. In particular, the greatest ignorance prevails as to all the political questions of the day.

Many of the tribes wander about the country in a state of utter barbarism.

"It is one of the evil results of this condition of ignorance that we have not even an opportunity of refuting the unjust assertions of our enemies, who delight in describing us as oppressors when we are oppressed, as criminals when innocent, and in exaggerating our misdeeds in every possible way. We cannot deny that lawless deeds have been committed by our compatriots, but we would ask if it is just that the entire nation should be made to answer for the sins of individual misdoers. Has it not ever been a recognized rule that one man shall not suffer for the crime of another?

"A few days ago, at a meeting held at Van on behalf of the famine-stricken inhabitants, one of the ecclesiastical authorities rose to advise the members of the meeting to refuse all assistance to the Kurds, saying that they were savages and rebels, and that to perish from hunger would, in the eyes of God, be a just retribution for their sins. Indeed, even in Europe, the same idea has been spread abroad by evil-disposed persons.

"Constant discussion, moreover, is going on in the newspapers on this subject to our detriment, its only object being to vilify us in the eyes of humanity and Islam, while there is none to defend us. But we would ask the members of the Committee whether they have heard of any great crimes committed by the Kurds during the last year, and if such are committed, what country is free from crime.

"Our great fault consists in our ignorance—a fault which we desire to amend. We therefore appeal to His Majesty's kindness, begging him to send us competent teachers; and we would propose that a capitation tax should be levied on the different tribes to meet the expense thereof. We are sure that if the money raised by this means be not diverted into other channels, we shall lose our reputation of savages, and the East will profit by the arts of the West."

No. 128.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 626.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, October 27, 1882.*

THE Persian Minister at this Court, in an interview which I had with him on the 23rd instant, spoke to me of the anxiety felt by the Persian Government lest the return of Sheikh Obeidullah to Kurdistan should lead to a renewal of the disturbances which took place two years ago, and should bring about serious complications if proper measures are not taken by Turkey to prevent Kurdish inroads into Persian territory.

I have accordingly to request your Excellency to speak to the Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject, and to urge upon him the importance of maintaining order in the neighbourhood of the Persian frontier.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 129.

Mr. Thomson to Earl Granville.—(Received November 6.)

(No. 173.)
(Extract.) *Tehran, October 3, 1882.*

I PROCEEDED to inquire if any confirmation of the news of Shiekh Obeidullah's surrender had reached the Persian Government; and His Majesty informed me that he had received very friendly assurances from the Sultan and his Ministers, who held out hopes of the speedy recapture of the Sheikh and his withdrawal from the vicinity of the Persian frontier. Until certain information, however, of his actual surrender was received, the Persian Government could not feel free from anxiety as to the safety of their territory; and he hoped, therefore, that Her Majesty's Government would continue to press the Porte to take immediate and effectual steps for his rearrest and removal from the border.

No. 130.

Consul-General Abbott to Earl Granville.—(Received November 6.)

(No. 16.)
My Lord, *Tabreez, October 11, 1882.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 15 of the 17th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copies of further despatches, forming eight inclosures, which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Minister at Tehran respecting the Sheikh Obeidullah and his conditional surrender to the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM G. ABBOTT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 130.

Consul-General Abbott to Mr. Thomson.

(No. 42. Confidential.)
Sir, *Tabreez, September 20, 1882.*

DR. COCHRAN has addressed to me from Oroomiah two letters, replete with interesting matter, respecting the recent proceedings of Sheikh Obeidullah, his return to Nochea and passing events within the Persian and Turkish borders.

Although the surrender of the Sheikh is doubtless by this time an accomplished fact, the communications in question appear to be of some importance. I have therefore the honour to inclose extracts of the same for your Excellency's information.

Dr. Cochran states that the Ameer has been very friendly in his bearing towards the American missionaries.

A Proclamation has been printed at Oroomiah and issued by the Ameer, warning the inhabitants against holding any communication with the Kurds. The missionaries placed their printing press at the Ameer's disposal for this purpose.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM G. ABBOTT.

P.S. *September 21.*—This morning, the Shad-el-Mulk favoured me with a copy of the Ameer's Proclamation referred to above, which I understand has been transmitted by the Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs to the Legations at Tehran.

The authorities are now sending to Oroomiah for more Uchatins guns and a further supply of ammunition, the departure of which had been temporarily postponed. They cannot therefore consider that the position of affairs justifies them at present in relaxing measures for the defence of the frontier.

The forged Firman, produced by the Sheikh, purporting to be from the Sultan; the no less counterfeit letter he alleged the Shah had written to him; the spurious robe of honour which he exhibited as a gift he had received from His Persian Majesty; all of which the Sheikh has produced in justification of his return to Kurdistan—these are facts deserving special notice. As such, they are dwelt upon by the Ameer in his Proclamation, in order to bring the character of Obeidullah before the public in its true light. Nor does the Ameer omit to state that by opening fire upon the Sultan's officers, sent to parley with him, the Sheikh has become a rebel to his Sovereign. All this is set forth in very powerful language in the present Proclamation.

W. G. A.

Inclosure 2 in No. 130.

Dr. Cochran to Consul-General Abbott.

(Confidential.)
(Extracts.) *Oroomiah, September 6, 1882.*

YOU have, of course, heard of his return to his home of the Sheikh. From what I judge, hearing from natives who went to meet him, it is true that he escaped and was not released. For until he got among Kurds, he is said to have been accompanied only by two men. All three were dressed in old Turkish uniforms, and avoided all cities and highways. It immediately threw our district into the wildest confusion.

Every one seemed to think that it must follow that the old Sheikh was to be fool enough immediately to come to Oroomiah again. It is often reported that he has reached Barandooz. Prices have risen very materially.

Four or five days ago, according to the Ameer, whom I saw the other day, a Turkish General was sent by the Turks to see the Sheikh and have a formal interview with him as to his intentions, the Government's wishes concerning him, &c. On reaching an outpost of the Sheikh's, the latter opened fire. An engagement ensued, resulting in several killed and wounded on both sides. Since this affair nothing has occurred, save the arrest of several Chiefs friendly to the Sheikh.

The Ameer says he demands of the Turkish Government either the recapture of the Sheikh, or the permission for Persia to capture him.

Oroomiah, September 14, 1882.

It is very evident that the Sheikh came incognito, and not through any large towns until he got among his friends near Van. I am not aware that he entered that city. We heard that about 2,000 Kurds and Nestorians (by force, or from fear) went out to meet him, some as far as Bashkala.

Since arriving at his home, several Turkish Government Agents have been sent to hear orders that he surrender.

Some time since we heard that the Sultan offered as an ultimatum that he go with his family and kin to Medina, where he would be supported at the expense of the Government. If he declined this, he should be returned to Constantinople by force.

After receiving this, he endeavoured to get as many warriors about him as possible. He, to-day, has about 6,000. Many whom he has called, fearing the Turks now or in future, refuse to join him, or tell him they will after he has advanced to their territory. One of his sons, I think Mehmed Sadik, with 2,000 men, is camped on the southern extremity of Gawar Plain.

We believe twenty-one Turkish regiments, amounting to at least 10,000 men, have surrounded Nochea. There are seven fine guns at Gawar.

To-day the Ameer's Peeshkar, Mirza Riza Khan Sertip, told me that a telegram had just arrived from Tehran, sent by the Persian Ambassador at Constantinople, to the effect that the Sheikh had yielded to the Sultan, and was to go to Medina.

The Ameer seems to do nothing more than sit by the helm and keep his border pretty well strengthened.

Inclosure 3 in No. 130.

Consul-General Abbott to Mr. Thomson.

(No. 43. Confidential.)

Tabreez, September 22, 1882.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 42 of the 20th instant, I have the honour to inclose herewith an extract from a letter addressed to Dr. Cochran by one of his colleagues who has been residing for the last year at Constantinople.

The writer refers to the escape of Sheikh Obeidullah from the Turkish capital, and appears to have had opportunities of gauging the motives which at present actuate the conduct of that Chief.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM G. ABBOTT.

Inclosure 4 in No. 130.

The Rev. B. Labaree to Dr. Cochran.

(Confidential.)

(Extract.)

Hissar, near Constantinople, August 18, 1882.

IT has got out that Sheikh Obeidullah has escaped from here, which perhaps adds a new element of doubt as to peaceful prospects Eastwards.

The Sheikh has not breathed the most quieting kind of atmosphere in Stamboul. He is an admirer of Arabi Pasha and his courses. Is more than ever disposed to regard the sword as the true arbiter of national hopes and destinies. He has come to

cherish more sinister views in regard to the English and "Giaours" in general. But what prospects he has of renewing his former agitations is not apparent. He will not probably stir so long as his relative Mohamed Seyid is here in the hands of the Turks.

Kafi Effendi thinks that his first effort will be to recover his landed possessions in Merghever from the Persians. Of course if he does this he will bring on a collision soon.

It may be considered very certain that any serious disturbances in Kurdistan will furnish Russia her longed-for opportunity to step across the mountains. She is hoping, it is supposed, that Turkey and England will fall out, so she can do her pleasure with Armenia. Dr. Dwight sent word not long since to the Sheikh that such was the situation.

It has not got out just how the Sheikh managed his flight, nor how long before this he actually went; it may have been three weeks since. Some have supposed the Turks connived at it, though that opinion to-day is not so much credited. I do not see that the Turks have anything to gain, and probably much to lose, by the setting free of such a free lance.

Inclosure 5 in No. 130.

Consul-General Abbott to Mr. Thomson.

(No. 45.)

Tabreez, September 28, 1882.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 42 of the 20th instant, I have the honour to inclose herewith translation of a telegram addressed by the Ameer Nizam to the Veli Ahd, which was read on the 25th instant in the principal mosque of this town, conveying the impression that the speedy surrender of Sheikh Obeidullah was looked upon by the Ameer as a probable occurrence.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM G. ABBOTT.

Inclosure 6 in No. 130.

The Ameer Nizam to His Royal Highness the Veli Ahd.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.)

Oroomiah, 10 *Zilcadé*, 1299 (*September* 24, 1882).

SOME days ago your Royal Highness inquired whether cavalry would be required at Oroomiah. My reply was delayed, because a final decision on this subject had not been taken. But now, thank God, the affair of the Sheikh is on the point of coming to a termination. There is no further necessity for the dispatch of cavalry to Oroomiah. Those ready to come can be disbanded; those not yet under orders for active service need not come at all.

Inclosure 7 in No. 130.

Consul-General Abbott to Mr. Thomson.

(No. 46.)

Tabreez, September 30, 1882.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 45 I have the honour to report that Mr. Isaac Greenfield writes to me from Souj-Boulak, under date of the 26th instant, as follows:—

"The last news is that ten days ago the Vezir Fevâiyed wrote from Oroomiah to Souj-Boulak that Sheikh Obeidullah's position had been surrounded on four sides by Turkish troops, and that the Turkish Commanders had communicated to him the orders of the Sultan that he must immediately take his departure. The Sheikh said, 'I am not a fighting man; grant me a delay of ten days. I will then take my family and go wherever you wish.'

"The Turkish Commanders telegraphed the Sheikh's request to Constantinople, whence the answer came that, after ten days, he must proceed with his family either to Mecca or Medina, whichever of the two cities he preferred.

"A Turkish officer has been appointed to escort the Sheikh and his family, with

all due respect, to their new place of residence, and, from what I hear, they must have started yesterday on their journey."

A telegram received to-day by my Turkish colleague from the Pasha of Van corroborates the above intelligence, with the exception of the actual departure of the Sheikh, of which the Persian Government will be doubtless apprised as soon as it takes place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM G. ABBOTT.

Inclosure 8 in No. 130.

Consul-General Abbott to Mr. Thomson.

(No. 47.)
Sir, *Tabreez, October 4*, 1882.

THE conditional surrender of Sheikh Obeidullah was reported to me by Dr. Cochran in a letter from Oroomiah, which I received to-day, the writer stating that the Sheikh had been obliged to accept the terms of the Sultan.

I have further the honour to add some interesting particulars, derived from the same source, on this subject.

On his arrival at Nehriyeh the Sheikh collected together from 4,000 to 6,000 warriors, who have since deserted him, partly through fear of incurring the punishment threatened by the Turkish authorities. It is, however, probable that their faith in the Sheikh has been somewhat shaken, and he has now at the utmost not more than 400 adherents to his cause.

It appears that Kiamil Bey, dispatched by the Porte to Nehriyeh, ordered the Sheikh on the part of the Sultan to proceed at once to Mecca or Medina. Obeidullah replied that he was an obedient subject of the Caliph, but he trusted that His Majesty would be graciously pleased to modify the Decree he had issued by permitting him to dwell at Mosul, where the climate was likely to prove less fatal to himself and family than at either of the cities selected for his residence.

Kiamil Bey has telegraphed the petition of the Sheikh on this subject to the Turkish Government, and applied for further instructions.

The Ameer Nizam has informed Dr. Cochran that the Persian Government strongly object to the Sheikh remaining anywhere in the vicinity of their borders, and that they have made a communication in this sense to Kiamil Bey, as well as to the Porte, through the Turkish Ambassador at Tehran, suggesting Damascus as a suitable place of abode for this Kurdish Chief.

The Kurdish tribes of Mesopotamia would be very accessible to the influence of the Sheikh if he took up his residence at Mosul, nor can it be supposed that such an arrangement would meet with the satisfaction of the Persian Government. The advisableness of such a plan would, indeed, appear to be very questionable.

Many fervent followers of Islam would doubtless consider Sheikh Obeidullah as an important acquisition in either of the holy cities of Arabia, or even at Damascus. Obeidullah, like Arabi, has probably numerous admirers, who look upon him as one of the props of Islam; but if the Turkish Government, in a fit of religious sentiment, failed to restrain his conduct, it is to be feared he might create for them in the future a situation fraught with serious embarrassments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM G. ABBOTT.

No. 131.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received November 6.*)

(No. 1007. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October 27*, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch I have received from Major Everett containing information respecting Sheikh Obeidullah, together with copies of his instructions to Mr. Vice-Consul Eyres, who will, on the departure of Major Everett, assume charge of the Kurdistan Consulate.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 131.

Major Everett to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 5.)
My Lord, *Erzeroum, September 28*, 1882.

BY the last mail I received a letter from Dr. Reynolds, an American missionary at Van, dated the 12th September, by which it appears that, though at one time the surrender of the Sheikh was confidently affirmed, now he is said to be preparing for resistance. It is also said that the Sheikh would be glad if Mar Shimoon were to join him, but it is not expected that he will do so.

It seems very difficult even at Van to obtain anything like reliable intelligence on the subject, and no one there understands why so many troops have been sent to the frontier, when a far smaller number would have been ample for the purpose for which they are supposed to be intended.

The same thing has puzzled many people here, and it is the opinion of some that the Sheikh has only been the excuse for a concentration of troops.

I have just heard that Moussa Pasha has demanded more artillery, and that it is likely that another battalion will leave this shortly, but whether for Van or for Bayazid is doubtful.

I have the honour to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your Excellency's telegram of the 21st instant, informing me that I can proceed on leave. In order that the work of the Consulate should be efficiently conducted in my absence, I have written down a few instructions for the guidance of Mr. Eyres, which I now submit for your Excellency's approval.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 131.

Major Everett to Vice-Consul Eyres.

(No. 1.)
Sir, *Erzeroum, September 26*, 1882.

AS I understand you have been appointed to take charge of this Consulate during my absence on leave, and as I may not have an opportunity of meeting you on your way out, I have thought it advisable to write down a few instructions for your guidance.

1. You will naturally make yourself acquainted with recent Circulars, but I would especially wish to draw your attention to that of the 26th August, 1881, modified in favour of American subjects by that of the 1st December, 1881.

2. While you will, in accordance with the last-named Circular, continue to protect the American missionaries, you should be careful not to extend that protection officially to those Protestants who are subjects of the Porte. In case, however, any of the latter should suffer any outrage at the hands of their Gregorian compatriots, you will be justified, should the occasion warrant it, in bringing the matter to the notice of the Vali, in a personal and unofficial interview, reporting the circumstance and your proceedings.

3. The Mutessarif of Bayazid, one of the worst Governors that ever ruled a Province, is at Erzeroum awaiting his sentence. Not long ago a statement of his

crimes is supposed to have been handed to the Vali by Krikor Effendi Shahbanian, who was sent to Bayazid to inquire into the complaints which had been made against the Mutessarif. That a statement has been sent in is true; whether it contains his crimes is doubtful. You should be careful to watch his movements, and if you see any signs of an intention to reinstate him, you should inform Her Majesty's Ambassador at once of the circumstance.

4. I should be glad if you would prepare during the winter, a Report on the Trade of Erzeroum. So far as I am aware, no Report has been rendered since the war, and it is important that an investigation be made into the changes which may have taken place, and especially into the alleged diminution of the Persian transit trade. I leave you several statistics gathered by me last year, when I had hoped myself to have been able to send in such a Report. Unfortunately, press of work of a different nature prevented my taking the matter up seriously.

5. A religious movement in favour of the Anglican Church exists in Chanous, and, I am told, in the neighbourhood of Bitlis. Petitions on this subject have been addressed to this Consulate; but, as Her Majesty's Government have decided not to give any encouragement to the movement, you will not accept any Petitions of this nature. As I have already informed the petitioners of this decision, I do not think they will be likely to trouble you.

6. As Her Majesty's Government are already fully informed as to the state of the country, I do not think that there will be any occasion for you to dilate at length on matters which, though they will certainly strike you as deplorable, have been already exhaustively reported on; but it will certainly be your duty, after having made yourself acquainted with the state of things, to note any further changes for the worse, and the effect that these changes may be likely to have upon the future of the country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

Inclosure 3 in No. 131.

Major Everett to Vice-Consul Eyres.

(No. 2. Confidential.)
Erzeroum, September 26, 1882.

Sir,

IN addition to the instructions which I have left for your guidance it will be incumbent on you to direct your attention to the following points:—

1. It has for some time past been known to me that a movement of a revolutionary character is on foot among the Gregorian Armenians. The extent of this movement is not accurately known, but I believe it to embrace Erzinjan, Mush, Bitlis, and Van, the latter place being a chief centre. Up to the present time it has been confined, I believe I may say entirely, to the circulation of revolutionary papers; it emanated from Russian Armenia, and I have been told is secretly encouraged by Russia.

While it is very necessary for you to gain information on this subject, you will have to proceed with great caution. Whatever comes to your knowledge you will report directly to Her Majesty's Ambassador, and you should, at the same time, lose no opportunity of impressing on the Armenians the folly of such a course.

2. There are rumours of a considerable concentration of Russian troops on the frontier. It is very difficult to learn the exact truth, but you should make yourself acquainted as far as possible by the examination of travellers, &c., with what is going on, and report any important movement that may come to your notice by telegraph to Her Majesty's Ambassador.

You will also find that Russian Agents, both military and civil, are active on this side of the frontier. It will be desirable that you keep yourself as fully as possible informed of their movements.

3. At present Sheikh Obeidullah is at Ghevver (Gavar), in Hakkiari. It was reported that he had tendered his submission to the Sultan, but the latest news that I have been able to obtain from Van leads to the belief that the report was premature, and that he intends preparing for resistance.

I recommend, if time should allow of it, that you go down to Van before the winter sets in, and examine the state of affairs there.

As any resistance on the part of the Sheikh, or outbreak on the part of the Kurds in his favour, might produce serious complications, it will be necessary for you to report changes in the situation directly to Her Majesty's Ambassador.

4. There is a force of some twenty-five or twenty-six battalions, numbering about 10,000 men, concentrated on the frontier in the neighbourhood of Dizza, for the ostensible purpose of repressing the Sheikh. Any further movements of the 4th Army Corps that may come to your notice should be reported by telegraph to Her Majesty's Ambassador until his Excellency should desire you to discontinue doing so.

5. It is creditably reported here that there is a Persian force on the frontier opposite to the Turkish troops. They number, probably, about 12,000 men, but we have no certain information on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

No. 132.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received November 6.)

(No. 1008. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October 27, 1882.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 834 of the 27th August last, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch I have received from Major Everett, reporting on his recent journey from Erzeroum via Kars and Tiflis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 132.

Major Everett to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 6. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Steam-ship "Apis," October 22, 1882.*

IN accordance with your Excellency's approval of the suggestion contained in my despatch No. 16, Confidential, of the 11th August, addressed to Major Trotter, I proceeded from Erzeroum to the Black Sea via Kars and Tiflis.

At Sarykamish I found two regiments of infantry (about 4,000 men) and a number of Cossacks, sufficient for the service of the frontier posts, but no guns.

Both at Kars and Alexandropol there were about 4,000 infantry; and I was informed that at Kaghysman there were a similar number.

At Kars I met Mr. Wm. Chambers, a missionary, who had come up from Igdyr viâ Erivan. He could not give me any figures, but he said that there was no movement of troops whatever in that direction, and, in fact, that very few soldiers were to be seen anywhere.

At Alexandropol I learnt that no troops had been moved towards the south.

Warlike stores exist both at Kars and at Alexandropol, especially at the latter place, where there are very considerable quantities of field and fortress guns, mortars, shot and shell, gun carriages of all descriptions, &c.

As I found that Colonel Gonne, our Military Attaché, had only left Tiflis on the day of my arrival, I refrained from making any further inquires, nor, indeed, were they necessary, the information I had obtained *en route* being quite sufficient to assure me that all the reports which had reached Erzeroum of a concentration of Russian troops on the frontier were entirely without foundation.

The villages in the territory lately acquired by Russia are gradually being repopulated by Greeks and Malagans. The Greeks appear in the main to content themselves with rebuilding the semi-underground habitations of their predecessors, but the Malagans are constructing on the old sites entirely new houses of wood obtained from the Soghanlu Dagh. I was very much struck with the ability and energy of these people. The amount of work they have got through during the short time they have been in the country is surprising.

Two iron ploughs, of English make, which I saw in one of their villages, testify to their agricultural enterprize. They are also clever carpenters and waggon builders.

The people in the portion of territory above referred to seem contented with the new rule.

I conversed with one or two Kurds whom I met on the road, and they spoke in high terms of the security which they now enjoy.

Since my departure, seven batteries of field artillery have arrived at Erzeroum from the Westward. It was thought some of these would be forwarded to Van immediately, but up to the time of the post leaving Erzeroum they had not been moved.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

No. 133.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 13.)

(No. 1015. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 7, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 620 of the 27th ultimo, and to state that I have desired Mr. Marinitch, who is acting as Head Dragoman during the temporary absence on leave of Sir A. Sandison, to urge upon the Grand Vizier and the Minister for Foreign Affairs the importance of taking steps to prevent serious complications from arising by the renewal of Kurdish inroads into Persian territory, and that I will take an early opportunity of doing so myself.

The Persian Ambassador spoke to me to-day on the subject, and I told him of the orders I had received from your Lordship.

His Excellency informed me, confidentially, that some time ago the Sultan had promised him that Sheikh Obeidullah should be removed to Medina or Mecca; that when the time came the Sheikh had begged for delay on the ground that he had not sufficient horses, promising, however, to obey the Sultan, and adding that he would send his son to Constantinople. Mohsin Khan said that he had reminded His Imperial Majesty of his promise a short time ago, but that it appeared now that instead of the Sheikh being ordered to the Hedjaz he was going to Moussoul. He also said that he had learnt that it is the second son, a man of mean capacity (an imbecile), whom it is proposed to send here, and not the Sheikh's eldest son, whom he described as being more dangerous even than his father.

As Mohsin Khan stated that Sheikh Obeidullah's presence at Moussoul for any length of time might give rise to troubles, I have desired Mr. Marinitch to represent to the Porte that it would be desirable that he should be requested not to make a prolonged stay there, but to proceed to Medina or Mecca.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 134.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 20.)

(No. 1032.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 11, 1882.

IN accordance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 626 of the 27th ultimo, I spoke to the Prime Minister and the Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject of the return of Sheikh Obeidullah to Kurdistan, and urged upon them the importance of maintaining order in the neighbourhood of the Persian frontier.

Both the Prime Minister and the Minister for Foreign Affairs assured me, in reply, that it was not a fact that the Kurds made inroads into Persian territory. Arrangements had, however, been made for the departure of Sheikh Obeidullah to Mossul, where his presence would not be dangerous; and the Government had the full conviction that this step would allay all anxiety, and have the effect of securing tranquillity in the district in question.

The Prime Minister further stated that the Turkish Government attached the greatest importance to the maintenance of order on the frontier, and added that it was all the more necessary for them to neglect no precaution, as it was their interest to avoid giving Russia a pretext for interference.

As regards the proposal that the Sheikh should be sent to Medina or Mecca, his Highness observed that, if such an arrangement was carried out on the initiative of the Imperial Government, it would be considered as a punishment; while if the Sublime Porte announced that it had been made at the suggestion of a foreign Power, it would give rise to many comments which it was the interest of the Turkish Government to avoid.

Finally, both the Prime Minister and the Minister for Foreign Affairs assured me that, if the Government saw signs of any disturbances or complications arising in consequence of the Sheikh's proceeding to Mossul, they would not fail to give the matter their most serious consideration, and take the necessary steps for the preservation of order.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 135.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 20.)

(No. 1039.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 14, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that on the 26th ultimo the Sultan issued an Iradé for the formation of three Commissions, to be severally charged with the elaboration of the financial, judicial, and administrative reforms to be introduced into the Ottoman Empire.

The first of these Commissions meets at the Sublime Porte under the presidency of Akif Pasha, the President of the Council of State. Among its members are the Minister of Finance, the Director-General of the Indirect Contributions, and two German officials in the employ of the Ottoman Government, namely, Wettendorf Effendi, Under-Secretary of the Department of Finance, and De Bertram Effendi, Secretary of the Administration of the Indirect Contributions.

Its object is to make a thorough investigation of the actual Budget, and to take into consideration the various resources which may be made available for increasing the revenues of the Treasury.

The President of this Commission did not conceal from me that their task was surrounded by the greatest difficulties.

The second Commission, which is to formulate the reforms which it may consider necessary for the improvement of the judicial system and the Law Courts, meets under the presidency of the Sheikh-ul-Islam. It is composed of the Minister of Justice, and most of the high judicial authorities of the Empire, together with several functionaries of the Ulema class. The fact of its being under the presidency of the Sheikh-ul-Islam proves that the Commission will take into its consideration the Chery, or Mussulman Law, as well as the "Medjellé" (Mussulman Civil Law) and the Ottoman Civil and Criminal Law, which is taken principally from the French Code.

The third Commission is to consider the reforms necessary for the development of commerce, agriculture, and public works. It meets under the presidency of Hassan Fehmi Pasha, the Minister of Public Works, and is composed of the Under-Secretary of that Department, who is a German, Raif Effendi, the Director-General of Public Works, M. Galland, a French engineer, and several other functionaries connected with the same Department.

The Sultan having expressed a wish to be furnished, as soon as possible, with the result of their labours, the three Commissions have met every day since their nomination; and I am informed that within a few days their respective reports will be sent in to the Council of Ministers, who, after having examined them, will submit them to the approval of His Majesty the Sultan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 136.

Mr. Thomson to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 20, 3·45 P.M.)

(No. 54.)
(Telegraphic.) *Tehran, November* 20, 1882, 3·5 P.M.

SHEIKH OBEIDULLAH, who was being conveyed to Moosul by the Turkish Special Commissioners, has been rescued by his son Kadir, who attacked the escort of 40 horsemen with a force of 400 Kurds, and retired with his father and the Turkish prisoners to Hooroumar, a fortress which he has much strengthened. The Turkish troops are now besieging Hooroumar.

(Sent to Viceroy of India.)

No. 137.

Mr. Thomson to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 24, 1·15 P.M.)

(No. 55.)
(Telegraphic.) *Tehran, November* 24, 1882.

PERSIAN Government have received information from frontier denying truth of intelligence communicated by them to me on the 20th instant, and reported in my telegram No. 54 of that date.

Sheikh Obeidullah is said to be now at Mosul, and his son, Kadir, besieged at Horehmar.

(Sent to Viceroy of India.)

No. 138.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 24, 1·1 P.M.)

(No. 456.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, November* 24, 1882, 6:30 P.M.

YOUR telegram No. 629 of the 21st instant.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs has sent me a message this evening that he has telegrams officially and absolutely contradicting reported rescue of Sheikh Obeidullah by his son, who, on the contrary, has given himself up to the Turkish troops.

No. 139.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 27.)

(No. 1052. Confidential.)
Constantinople, November 17, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch addressed to the Earl of Dufferin, inclosing a copy of a letter recently received from Mr. Mihran Baghdasarian, late Dragoman to Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, containing some interesting information with regard to the condition of the country about that town. I have thought it well to bring to the notice of the Minister for Foreign Affairs the account of the cruelties practised by Ottoman soldiers on the Christian inhabitants, and his Excellency has in consequence made a communication on the subject to the Minister of War.

I venture to call your Lordship's favourable attention to Major Trotter's suggestion that Mr. Baghdasarian should receive some remuneration, say £ T. 14 (about 12*l.* 17*s.*), in consideration of the information he has afforded Her Majesty's Embassy since the departure of Captain Clayton.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 139.

Mr. Baghdasarian to Major Trotter.

Sir, *Van, September* 12, 1882.

I BEG to state that the misconduct of the Imperial troops stationing in several districts of this vilayet is causing much indignation and anxiety among the Christian peasantry. Many atrocious actions have been committed recently by Turkish soldiers which I shall report here, to show under what a pitiful condition the Christian population is suffering at the present moment. At Shadakh, it is reported, the soldiers being quartered in the houses of the inhabitants attempted forcibly to dishonour the families of their hosts. A deputation composed of the Notables of the country addressed therefore a petition to Mustafa Pasha, the chief Commandant of the troops stationing in the Vilayets of Van and Hekiari, calling his attention to this serious case. At Shah Baghi, an Armenian village only half-an-hour far from Van, a Milazim, accompanied by some soldiers, entered forcibly an Armenian house and carried off, it is told, the wife of the proprietor, with her daughter. It is stated that after keeping them two nights on the mountain, they sent their victims home. At Seray, a Nestorian village near Bashkala, the stationing troops are behaving themselves very bad indeed. I, myself, spending lately about twelve days in that village, witnessed that the poor inhabitants of Seray are like slaves at the mercy of the troops which are quartered in their own cottages. The chief people of the village reported to me many instances of atrocity, oppression, and cruelty, which show that the condition of the poor people there is worse than tongue can tell. In the face of such an anarchy the local civil or military authorities are quite apathetic, and the Christians, seeing, on the other hand, that indifference is prevailing among the European Powers with regard to the deplorable state of the population of Armenia, are driven to despair, and the prolonged absence of Her Majesty's Representative from his post at Van is causing a good deal of discouragement. Both Armenians and Nestorians are of the erroneous opinion that England and the English have forgotten this poor country and its oppressed inhabitants, who are delivered into the hands of their mortal enemy. In their misery and ignorance, they could naturally do nothing else but take the most simple way to save themselves from their insufferable condition. Thus, it appears, they have taken resolution to emigrate to Russia, and deputations are being sent from all parts of the country to Major Kamsarakan, the Russian Vice-Consul here, to ask aid and protection. I do not know whether they will get permission to carry out their intention or not.

The Egyptian question caused here too bad feelings and hostile sentiments among the Mahommedan population against the Christians, and it is to be feared that this excitement on the part of Turks and Kurds may not have fatal consequence for the poor and helpless Armenian peasantry.

The Kurds continue their depredations all over the country, especially in the Moosh field, where they lately have made an attack on Arif Pasha, the Governor-General of the Bitlis Vilayet, who had undertaken a journey of inspection in that part of the country.

Altogether, the condition of this part of Armenia or Kurdistan is very unsatisfactory, and deserves to be watched carefully, especially now, because the return of Sheikh Obeidullah, the famous Kurdish Chieftain of Nehri, has much augmented all previous dangers and apprehensions the Christians have to undergo. Although a considerable military force is being sent to Hekiari on pretence of arresting him, yet nobody believes here that the Turkish Government will really lay hands upon the beloved and much-esteemed chief ecclesiastic of the Kurds. On the contrary, the Government is at the present moment very anxious about the military preparations of the Persian Government on the frontier, and therefore it appears that the Sheikh has been sent home by the secret orders of the Sultan, on purpose to form a Kurdish army to co-operate with the Turkish troops in case of a Persian invasion.

There are now about 15 battalions, each of 250 men, in Hekiari, with 21 field-guns and two Generals. Other troops are daily coming from Jezireh, Diarbekir, Kharpoot, Malatia, Erzinjan, Erzeroum, and Mossul. In the face of such enormous military preparations, everybody is thinking here that we are at the eve of a Turco-Persian war.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. B

No. 140.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 4.)

(No. 1073.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 23, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Consul Biliotti, reporting various outrages committed by Lazes at Ordoo and Samsoon, in the Vilayet of Trebizond.

I have communicated the substance of this despatch to the Sublime Porte, and have called its attention to the inefficiency and indifference of the police and the military in the district mentioned.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 140.

Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 46.)

My Lord, *Trebizond, October* 31, 1882.

A FEW months back a numerous band of brigands made its appearance in the district of Ordoo, and amongst other travellers who were robbed on the highway, the Greek Bishop of that town was despoiled of 180*l.* when visiting his diocese.

The brigands were mostly, if not exclusively, Lazes, and in an encounter the police killed one and wounded two of the band, and lost, on its side, one zaptieh.

The public security was so compromised that the Vali dispatched to Ordoo a company of soldiers. After their arrival there was a lull in acts of brigandage, which, however, have lately broken out afresh.

I should explain here that, owing to malaria prevailing during the summer on this part of the coast of the Black Sea, all the natives living in sea towns go and spend the summer on high plateaux, where the local authorities follow them.

The time of these peregrinations is usually that of which brigands avail themselves for plundering, but no care was taken to station the soldiers on the high road, in order to protect the inhabitants on their return.

About a fortnight ago a number of them coming down from the highlands were waylaid, and plundered of valuables for a sum of about 350*l.* by ten or twelve Lazes, all armed with Martinis and revolvers. Two of the travellers—a well-to-do Mussulman and an Armenian lad—were shot dead, and eight others more or less severely wounded.

The local authorities sent twelve zaptiehs after the brigands, but the soldiers were not moved; and the question naturally arises as to the use of keeping the latter at Ordoo. The result of the expedition, while unsuccessful with regard to the apprehension of the murderers, was to prevent other families returning from the highlands from also being plundered.

The names of the perpetrators of the outrage seem to be known to the local authorities through a Mussulman girl, who, it is said, was carried off by the same Lazes from a village in the vicinity of Trebizond, and who managed to escape from her captors during the fight.

The inhabitants of Ordoo complain of the Kaïmakam of that town, a certain Kavzogloo Osman Pasha of Trebizond, who, being a great friend of Tsuruksooli Ali Pasha, does not show, they pretend, much energy in checking the nefarious propensities of the countrymen of the latter.

An incident which took place at Samsoon is, perhaps, connected with the plunders at Ordoo.

On the 20th instant, two Lazes, having landed from a boat from that port, and being in possession of jewellery for a certain value, excited the suspicions of the Custom-house authorities, who ordered two guards to convey them to the seraglio. When in the middle of the town the Lazes took to flight, after having shot at and wounded both guards. On their call for help the Cawas of the Persian Consulate attempted to arrest the Lazes, who shot him dead, and made good their escape.

That in broad daylight these two men should have managed to pass through the town, and should not have been either apprehended in their flight in the country, does not prove much in favour of the efficiency of the police.

It would seem, however, that sixteen Martini rifles having been discovered concealed in the boat from which the two men in question landed, the crew, who are themselves Lazes, were immediately arrested, and hopes are entertained of the capture of the murderers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 141.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 4.)

(No. 1082.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 27, 1882.

WITH reference to the Earl of Dufferin's despatch No. 1134, of the 26th December last, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a further despatch I have received from Mr. Consul Biliotti, reporting a fresh raid of Laz brigands to Hodortchoor.

I have brought the matter again to the notice of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, who has promised to write to the Vali of Trebizond on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 141.

Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 49.)

My Lord, *Trebizond, November* 3, 1882.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 71 of the 15th December last, I have the honour to report that brigands of Rizeh made a fresh raid at Hodortchoor, the details of which were only lately brought to my notice.

In the middle of August twenty-three brigands plundered the village of Mokhirgood the Lower, and retired with seven mules loaded with spoils.

In the first days of September they ransacked Mokhirgood the Upper, then repaired to the village of Korkantz, where they ill-treated all the inhabitants they met, without sparing old and young, ravished four women; and lastly renewed their attack on Mokhirgood the Lower, this time also plundering the house of the priest as well as the church.

The Hodortchoorlis reckon that the total of their losses amounts to nearly 1,000*l.*

On the 9th September the brigands fearlessly passed before the house of the Mudir at Ispir, with nine horses loaded with spoils, but he being himself in dread of the brigands, and the police force at his disposal being insufficient, no attempt was made to arrest them.

Hodortchoor having a population far superior to its agricultural resources, the greater part of the male inhabitants seek for means of existence at Trebizond, Erzeroum, and Russia, where they especially addict themselves to the rather lucrative trade of bakers.

When occasionally some of them return to spend a few months in their native country, they usually bring back money with them, and this circumstance, coupled with the habit of the women to wear, on these occasions, their gold ornaments, excites the rapacity of their Laz neighbours.

Hence the incursions which take place regularly once, and sometimes more than once a-year, under recognized chiefs, the principal of whom are the Tuyliogloos Doorsoon, Hassan, Hussein, Ahmed, their sons Rechid and Mémich, as well as the sons of Kutchuk Salih Bayrakdar, Aslan, and another whose name was not given to me.

A very curious feature in the incursions of the brigands at Hodortchoor is that they nearly always take with them loads of tobacco, which they compel the inhabitants to purchase at exorbitant prices, after which they plunder their houses.

The Vali of Trebizond acknowledges that the capture of the brigands in question is impossible by the police at Rizeh, but I beg to call your Lordship's attention to the following facts:—

The impossibility of apprehending them was partly overcome in the year 1878 by the then Kaïmakam of Rizeh, a certain Hadji Ali Nihad Effendi, who, for his

trouble, was dismissed from his post; out of twenty-five individuals arrested by him and sent to Erzeroum for trial, seven were condemned to death, and others to different terms of imprisonment; the capital sentence was not carried out on any of the parties, and with the exception of three who died in prison, and one, Caradéréli Hussein Onbachi, who is now here, they all managed to escape from the Erzeroum goals.

Under these circumstances, whether the brigands are arrested or not does not materially alter the case, while the apprehension of some of them is only a pretext for perpetrating further outrages, for which they are never punished.

After the last raid at Hodortchoor a few families have emigrated to Kars, Erzeroum, and Trebizond, and others intend to follow the example, but whatever extension may take the emigation, Hodortchoor being inhabited by 900 families, a sufficient number will always remain to attract the brigands of Rizeh.

If the police cannot be reinforced the only way to protect the inhabitants of Hodortchoor would perhaps be to have a company of soldiers stationed at Ispir.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 142.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received December 4.)

(No. 1088.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 28, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from Mr. Acting Consul Eyres, reporting that the Vali and Mussulman members of the Council of the Vilayet of Erzeroum have signed a Mazbata, or decision of the Council, addressed to the Sublime Porte, recommending that the Mutessarif of Bayazid, with regard to whom this Embassy has made, as your Lordship is aware, complaints to the Ottoman Government, may only be suspended from office, for the irregularities he has committed, for one year.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 142.

Vice-Consul Eyres to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 1.)
Sir, *Erzeroum, November 18, 1882.*

WITH reference to the suspension of the Mutessarif of Bayazid from his duties with a view to inquiry into his conduct, I have the honour to inform you that the Vali Mustapha Pasha and all the Mussulman members of the Council of the Vilayet have signed a Mazbata directed to the Sublime Porte, in which they declare that they are convinced that the Mutessarif is innocent of the main charges brought against him, and that though he may have been guilty of one or two irregularities, a year's suspension from his post may be considered as sufficient punishment for these.

Krikor Effendi Shabanian, who, as was reported by Major Everett, was sent to make the inquiry into the conduct of the Mutessarif, not only sent in official Report to Vali containing only charges which were capable of direct and immediate proof, but also added a private letter setting forth a list of crimes which it was notorious that he had committed, but which were not so easy of proof legally. In the Mabzata only four out of the numerous accusations brought against the Mutessarif are considered; no notice whatever is taken of the rest, and consequently Krikor Effendi has refused to sign the Mazbata, in spite of the pressing solicitations of various members of the Council. So far, no Christian member has signed, owing to the absence of all but one other from the town, and that one has not yet been asked to do so.

I have reason to hope that next week I shall be in a position to forward a list of the accusations which are capable of proof.

Thus it is evident that the Vali, who at first was somewhat averse to recommending that the Mutessarif should be reinstated in his position, has at length yielded to the representations of those who have been bribed and otherwise won over to plead the cause of this worthless character.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. A. EYRES.

No. 143.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received December 10, 6 P.M.)

(No. 478.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, December 10, 1882, 4·30 P.M.*

FOLLOWING received from Acting Consul at Erzeroum, dated 9th December:—

"Yesterday the Government here discovered the Armenian revolutionary movement through intercepted documents; the troops were called out, and about forty arrests were made, including the two chiefs of the movement. Arrests are still being made, the names of 700 people concerned being known to the Government."

No. 144.

Earl Granville to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 688.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December 11, 1882.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 1073 of the 23rd ultimo, inclosing copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Biliotti, reporting various outrages committed by Lazes in the Trebizond Vilayet; and I approve your having communicated the substance of Mr. Biliotti's despatch to the Porte, and having called its attention to the state of affairs therein described.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 145.

Earl Granville to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 690.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December 13, 1882.*

I HAVE read with surprise Mr. Eyre's report, inclosed in your despatch No. 1088 of the 28th ultimo, of an endeavour on the part of the Vali and Mussulman members of the Council of Erzeroum to substitute a temporary suspension from office of the Mutessarif of Bayazid in lieu of the punishment of dismissal to which he was condemned in August of last year.

I have to request you to express to the Porte the hope of Her Majesty's Government that they will not show such a disregard of the welfare of Turkish subjects, or of the representations of Her Majesty's Embassy, as to reinstate in any official position a man with the character and antecedents of the functionary in question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 146.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received December 18.)

(No. 1110.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December 11, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Eyres, reporting that the Sheikh Obeidullah has left Dizza for Mosul.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 146.

Mr. Eyres to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 2.)
Sir, *Erzeroum, November 25, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the Sheikh Obeidullah left Dizza for Mosul on the 5th instant.

Perfect tranquillity reigns in Hekkiari.

I am also informed that the Persian Government is not at all satisfied with the place of residence selected for the Sheikh, as it is asserted that the latter is not sufficiently far removed from his country and his friends to prevent his working much mischief.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. E. A. EYRES.

No. 147.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received December 18.)

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(No. 1111. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 11, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that I asked the Grand Vizier to-day whether he had received any news of a movement in Armenia, and of arrests which had been made there in consequence.

His Highness replied that he had information to that effect from Erzeroum; that some hostile aspirations ("des aspirations malveillantes") appeared to exist there, and that he thought they were encouraged by Russia.

I observed to his Highness that so long as nothing was done to ameliorate the condition of the people, discontent and movements of an insurrectionary nature must be expected; that Her Majesty's Government, with purely disinterested motives, but animated with a humane desire to see the lot of the population improved, and with a wish for the general welfare of the Empire, had continually pressed upon the Imperial Government the necessity of introducing reforms, but that, unfortunately, a deaf ear had been turned to all their appeals.

I likewise pointed out to his Highness that in Albania also matters appeared to be in a very critical condition.

Saïd Pasha replied that he was well aware and deeply sensible of the humane and disinterested motives of Her Majesty's Government in urging reforms in Armenia; that it was not the case that their recommendations had not been listened to, but that, owing to an internal hindrance ("un empêchement intérieur"), it had been impossible for the Imperial Government to give effect to them.

The influence of the Palace is, I have but little doubt, the internal hindrance to which his Highness alluded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 148.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received December 18.)

(No. 1116.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 11, 1882.

IN my despatch No. 1052, Confidential, of the 17th ultimo, I had the honour to inform your Lordship that I had called the attention of the Sublime Porte to the atrocities alleged to have been recently committed in the neighbourhood of Van by the Ottoman troops quartered in that district, and that the matter had been referred by the Foreign Minister to the Minister of War.

I have now been informed that Ghazi Osman Pasha has stated to the Sublime Porte that he has lost no time in inquiring into the subject, and in directing that, should the alleged atrocities have been committed, the offenders should at once be brought to punishment; but that, from information he had received from the military authorities of the district, the reports in question had been found to be entirely devoid of foundation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 149.

Earl Granville to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 700.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 18, 1882.

IN your despatch No. 1052 of the 17th ultimo you inform me that you had called the attention of the Turkish Government to the accounts of the cruel treatment of the Christians at Van by Ottoman soldiers, as communicated to Major Trotter by the former Dragoman of the Vice-Consulate at that place; and I have to express my approval of your action in this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 150.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received December 28.)

(No. 1124.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 18, 1882.

ON the receipt of Mr. Eyres' despatch No. 1 of the 18th ultimo, respecting the Mutessarif of Bayazid, a copy of which I had the honour to transmit to your Lordship in my despatch No. 1088 of the 28th ultimo, I communicated to the Grand Vizier the fact that a movement was on foot amongst the Council of the Vilayet to get that official reinstated in his office.

In reply to my representations, his Highness gave me the most distinct assurance that under no circumstances would the Mutessarif be allowed to return to his post.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

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